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No. 208

House of Representatives

The House met at 8 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. TONKO).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
December 2, 2021.

I hereby appoint the Honorable PAUL TONKO to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 4, 2021, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with time equally allocated between the parties and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 9:50 a.m.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF PAT DAUGHERTY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and legacy of Pat Daugherty, a pillar of the Centre region and the Penn State community.

Pat Daugherty owned and operated the Tavern Restaurant for four decades in State College, Pennsylvania. He was a mentor to many, a friend to all, and a champion for our community.

Sadly, Pat passed away on November 7 at the age of 75. While his absence has been felt by friends, family, and loved ones, the outpouring of anecdotes and stories from those who have known Pat over the years has illustrated what can be truly described as a life well lived.

Pat first arrived in State College in the early 1960s for his freshman year at Penn State University and proceeded to make the area home. He was a two-time graduate of the university with a bachelor's and a master's degree in civil engineering.

While attending Penn State, Pat, like many students, worked an off-campus job. Pat's place of employment was a historic inn turned restaurant called The Tavern. It would only be a few years later that Pat would return to The Tavern, this time as its owner. For the next 40 years, Pat welcomed students, staff, the Penn State nation, and visitors of all kinds to his restaurant. He always greeted them with a smile on his face and the goal to treat each person like family.

Pat loved the community and loved Penn State. He cared so much for his town and would do everything he could to make it a better place.

His drive to connect the community to the college and the college to the community was evident. Throughout the years of owning The Tavern, Pat employed hundreds of Penn State students. He is beloved by generations due to his years of mentorship.

He was always giving back; as an active volunteer and avid sports lover, Pat was a supporter of all Penn State athletic programs. The Tavern established several scholarships and an endowment for freestyle wrestling.

Leading up to Penn State's biggest philanthropic event of the year, THON, The Tavern was a frequent place for fundraisers and team meetings. The Tavern actively supported Mount Nittany Medical Center, Nittany Valley Symphony, Pennsylvania Chamber

Orchestra, as well as the Central Pennsylvania Festival of the Arts.

Pat was always putting his community first. His passion to help others and make the community a better place did not go unnoticed, and his contributions to State College cannot be overstated.

In 1999, Penn State named him the Renaissance Fund Honoree. This title is an annual tribute to someone for a lifetime of service to Penn State and the State College community through philanthropy and civic leadership. That year, contributions to the Renaissance Fund endowed three scholarships in honor of Pat, his mother, and Tavern alumni.

More than 20 years later, those scholarships are awarded to students with outstanding academic records who show the greatest financial need. Pat's philanthropy did not stop with the university. He continued to work to better the State College community, volunteering and serving among a variety of organizations.

He was a member of the Downtown Improvement District, where he played a significant role in the planning of the future of downtown State College. He served on the board of the Chamber of Business and Industry of Centre County and the Pennsylvania Restaurant Association.

He was always ready to lend a helping hand, and in 2019 the board of Centre County's Constitution Day celebration awarded Pat the inaugural James Madison Award for Civility in the Community.

Mr. Speaker, I have fond memories of meeting with Pat in the community and especially on Capitol Hill, when he would travel to Washington on behalf of the Pennsylvania Restaurant Association. We often shared a laugh, and during one visit he may have even shared the recipe for the Tavern's world renown "Original Sin" cocktail with my staff.

☐ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., ☐ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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Pat Daugherty's work in the community goes well beyond being a restaurateur. For more of his years he was a pillar of the community, a mentor, and an avid supporter of Penn State University and the greater Centre region. Most of all, Pat was someone who everyone called a friend.

I extend my sincere condolences to Pat's wife Ruth, his children, Sam and Dawn, and his family and friends. Pat will be so truly missed, and his legacy will live on forever.

KEEP YOUR PROMISE TO CALDOR FIRE VICTIMS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. MCCLINTOCK) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, the Caldor fire raged in the Sierra Nevada of California for 68 days last summer, consuming more than 221,000 acres of forestland, making it the 15th largest and the 16th most destructive fire in the history of California.

It literally wiped out the Gold Rush-era town of Grizzly Flats, and for days threatened the city of Lake Tahoe. It destroyed nearly 800 homes, leaving hundreds of families homeless and destitute.

On September 13, President Biden visited the scene. On that occasion, officials from El Dorado County and the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services apprised him of the need to assist these displaced families. He said, "We're going to take care of them. There's a lot we can do, and it starts off being a Federal responsibility, in my view."

The President was absolutely correct in that assessment. The fire exploded in the El Dorado National Forest that was catastrophically overgrown due to Federal environmental laws that have made removal of excess timber all but impossible.

According to local officials I have spoken with, the excessive use of backfires by the Forest Service also appears to have needlessly exacerbated the fire. This fire is indeed a Federal responsibility, and the Federal government owes to every one of the fire's victims the full resources available to get them back on their feet.

And yet, despite multiple appeals, the Federal Emergency Management Agency has refused to approve individual assistance for the victims of the Caldor fire.

The FEMA denial is a stunning double standard when compared with assistance granted in other fires that did far less damage. For example, the California Office of Emergency Services identified nine other individual assistance grants that FEMA approved in 2021 for fires that cumulatively destroyed fewer homes than those destroyed by the Caldor fire alone.

Survivors hoping to rebuild their homes face an insurance deficit of \$200,000 or more. Many survivors are

uninsured, and nearly all of them are underinsured due to the severity of recent wildfire seasons. Some survivors who were able to remain on their properties still lack access to potable water.

Moreover, residents of Grizzly Flats—the town completely wiped out by the fire—are disproportionately low-income, elderly, and socioeconomically vulnerable. Their homes and their belongings were all they had, and now they have nothing.

Even those who did not lose their businesses to the fire lost many months of income as evacuations shut everything down. The regional economy will continue to suffer if survivors are not able to rebuild. Critical infrastructure has been either damaged or completely destroyed, including schools, fire stations, and the Grizzly Flats Post Office.

While local officials, residents, and organizations are doing everything they can to provide support to one another and to rebuild, they will not be able to recover without the Federal assistance that they desperately need and deserve.

Last year, FEMA denied the request for individual assistance for the Creek fire in Fresno and Madera counties. When I appealed to President Trump to correct this injustice, he immediately reversed FEMA's decision and granted individual assistance to these homeowners.

President Biden made a solemn promise to the victims of the Caldor fire to help them rebuild. He personally saw the damage and heartbreak caused by the fire. He has the authority to reverse FEMA's denial and fulfill his promise. I have now written three letters to him drawing this to his attention and making this request. So far, I have not even received the courtesy of a response.

"We're going to take care of them, and there's a lot we can do." Those were the President's words spoken to these families in September. These families have now passed their first Thanksgiving without their homes and many without their livelihoods that were taken from them by this Federal fire. They are approaching a dismal Christmas, waiting and praying for the President to fulfill his promise.

I appeal to the President to use his authority to keep his promise to the victims of the Caldor fire. As President Trump did for the victims of the Creek fire, I call upon him to reverse FEMA's outrageous decision and release the funds these families are depending upon to rebuild their lives and their communities.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 10 a.m. today.

Accordingly (at 8 o'clock and 10 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1000

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at 10 a.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Margaret Grun Kibben, offered the following prayer:

Just and merciful God, You have promised to open Your gates that the righteous nation that keeps the faith may enter in.

Lord, we confess our unrighteousness and our faithlessness both as a country and as individuals. Show us the paths of right behavior and restore our faith in You.

Gracious God, You give peace to those whose minds remain fixed on You, whose trust in You gives them certainty in all life's challenges.

Lord, we confess that we have lost our sense of purpose and our ability to trust anything or anyone, even You. Show us the way You would have us go and restore our confidence in Your desire as You guide our lives.

Eternal God, You are our rock and our redeemer.

Lord, we confess that we fail to lean on You and instead depend solely on our own feeble abilities. Show us the strength of Your steadfast love and restore to us the promise of Your salvation, that we may enter into Your gates with praise and thanksgiving.

In Your saving name we pray.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to section 11(a) of House Resolution 188, the Journal of the last day's proceedings is approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DEUTCH) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. DEUTCH led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

GUN VIOLENCE

(Mr. DEUTCH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DEUTCH. Madam Speaker, as we begin to hear stories of the victims,

Justin Shilling, Hana St. Juliana, Madisyn Baldwin, and Tate Myer, our hearts are broken for the families in Michigan.

For the 17 dead and 21 wounded at a high school in Columbine 22 years ago; for the 32 dead and 17 wounded at Virginia Tech 14 years ago; for the 27 dead and two wounded at an elementary school in Newtown, Connecticut, 3,275 days ago—9 years ago—for the 17 dead and 17 wounded at a high school in Parkland 3 years ago; and for the four dead and seven wounded at a high school in Oxford, Michigan, 2 days ago, Mr. Speaker, we know what can be done to help save lives.

We know red flags laws are bipartisan and can save lives. We know that if we invest in mental health we can save lives. We know that background checks save lives. These are not partisan, and these are not controversial.

How many more scenes like the one in Michigan do we need to see before this Congress, the Senate, this House, and the White House get together to stop the violence?

Mr. Speaker, it is urgent. The time to act is not now, it was years ago. We must come together and help save lives.

RECOGNIZING STUARTS DRAFT CHEER

(Mr. CLINE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Stuarts Draft High School cheerleading squad.

After COVID-19 shrank the number of teams that could make it to State tournament last spring, the Cougars fell just 2 points shy of qualifying for the 2020 competition.

Coming off of this defeat and facing the loss of nine seniors, the team was determined to redeem themselves in the 2021 season. After much hard work and determination, their efforts paid off, winning this year's Class 2 State championship.

The Cougars dominated the competition earning a score of 257.5 points with their closest competition trailing by 35 points. With this victory in the books, Stuarts Draft Cheer has now claimed the State title in 4 of the past 5 years—highlighting just how talented this team is.

Following the win, cocaptain Kay-Lee Freeman said:

To not even make it last year then come back to win, I just feel so redeemed. People said there was no way we were ever going to rebuild, but look at us now.

Congratulations again to the Stuarts Draft Cougars on this accomplishment. It is well-deserved.

LET'S FIGHT INFLATION

(Mr. AUCHINCLOSS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. AUCHINCLOSS. Mr. Speaker, I urge Republicans to join Democrats in fighting inflation.

First, let's acknowledge that pandemic-related disruptions to the global supply chain and to consumer demand have driven up the price of goods. We solve this by vaccinating more people here and around the world, restoring confidence to high-contact service industries, and ending this pandemic for good.

Second, let's help businesses hire. A shrunken workforce exacerbates inflation by constraining supply. There are 27 million hidden workers: Parents who took time off, neurodiverse individuals, the formerly incarcerated, and people without a college degree.

Passing the Build Back Better Act will unlock registered apprenticeships, industry-aligned career pathways, and other proven job training programs.

Republicans may have good ideas, too, like reducing occupational licensing requirements. They should come join the debate in good faith instead of scoring political points off of inflation.

Finally, let's hold the Fed accountable to its target of 2 percent inflation. Both parties in Congress should hold the Fed to account to reduce asset purchases and reestablish its credibility on price stability.

Let's build on the bipartisan infrastructure deal to offer bipartisan inflation solutions.

HONORING HAWKEYE DISTINGUISHED VETERANS

(Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor several men and women for dedicating their lives to the service of this country and to Iowa.

Recently, three University of Iowa alumni, a staff member and a graduate student, received the 2021 Hawkeye Distinguished Veterans Award for their honorable service to this great Nation and their continued service to the University of Iowa and the Iowa City community.

The recipients of this prestigious award are Chaplain George M. Campbell, Jr.; Colonel Kenneth E. Madden; Staff Sergeant Maria Guadalupe Bruno; General Charles A. Horner; and Staff Sergeant Jake L. Schillo.

Mr. Speaker, I am grateful for these wonderful men and women and for their service to the United States and to Iowa.

RECKLESS POLICIES DRIVING INFLATION

(Mr. BARR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, on the heels of the most expensive Thanksgiving in decades, the American people are head-

ing into the holiday shopping season that is going to be the most expensive in American history. That is because everywhere Americans open their wallets or swipe their credit cards, they are paying more because of President Biden's reckless tax, borrow, and spend policies.

Gas prices are up 61 percent from last year.

Think about it, Mr. Speaker, in 1 year's time we went from energy dominance to total dependence on foreign sources of energy. Electricity prices are up nearly 25 percent, and with winter in full swing, the cost of natural gas is soaring. Nearly half the homes in United States use natural gas for heat, and families could pay an average of \$746 more this winter, 30 percent more than a year ago.

In October, the CPI rose 6.2 percent, the highest it has been in over 30 years. Core inflation—minus food and energy costs—is at 4.3 percent, well above the Fed's 2 percent target.

Mr. Speaker, the Fed is not meeting its price stability mandate, and now Democrats want to double down on their failed policies of overspending, discouraging work, and constraining the supply of energy.

The Build Back Better bill is not going to remedy inflation; it is going to make it much, much worse. It is time for this administration and the majority in this Congress to reverse course and stop jeopardizing the future prosperity of the American people.

HONORING MARINE CORPORAL JOHN "BULLIT" KILLIAN

(Mr. NORMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. NORMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize the service of Marine Corporal John "Bullit" Killian of Chester, South Carolina.

John is no stranger to service and sacrifice. In fact, military service runs in the Killian family. John's father was a marine in World War II in the Pacific Theater.

A true American hero, John bravely served our country throughout the Vietnam war. John's military career began in 1965 after he and several of his classmates were selected for the draft.

John went through basic training at Parris Island, which he credits for sufficiently preparing him to survive Vietnam. His first duty station was Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) in Cherry Point, North Carolina, where he trained as an electrician and attended an air conditioning and refrigeration school.

After completing his schooling, John shipped out to Vietnam. He was based at Camp Evans, which he and his fellow marines called Disneyland because they got to live in hooches instead of tents.

Affectionately known as Cackalack, John was discharged after 1 year, 11

months, and 22 days in the Marine Corps. He left Vietnam the day the Tet Offensive started. His time in the Marine Corps dramatically affected his life. John said in some ways his service made him harder, but in other ways softer.

On behalf of the Fifth District of South Carolina, I want to thank Marine Corporal John Killian for his outstanding service. He has created a lasting legacy of duty, honor, and courage, and our Nation is better off for his sacrifice. May God continue to bless John and his great family.

WE MUST RESTORE AMERICAN COMPETITIVENESS

(Mr. BILIRAKIS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today because I refuse to stand by and watch as America's ability to ensure the safe and efficient movement of goods, people, and services throughout our transportation network continues to be diluted. Our priority focus right now should be strengthening our Nation's economy and increasing our global competitiveness.

The policies of this President and Democratic Party leaders in Congress are exacerbating or simply ignoring the underlying supply chain crisis. These policies include the mishandling of the COVID response in ways that are prolonging unemployment and worker shortages across the economy and pushing for a multitrillion-dollar spending spree that is driving up prices of everything from gas to groceries.

Mr. Speaker, these efforts only serve to weaken American competitiveness and shrink our economy.

HONORING THE REMARKABLE CAREER OF DR. KAREN A. BOWYER

(Mr. KUSTOFF asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KUSTOFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a true education leader, Dyersburg State Community College President Dr. Karen A. Bowyer.

Dr. Karen Bowyer has served as president of Dyersburg State Community College, located in my congressional district, for 37 years, and was the first female president to lead the institution. In fact, at that time there were no female college presidents in the entire State of Tennessee.

Indeed, Dr. Bowyer broke barriers, and she opened doors for students and their families across west Tennessee to achieve a higher education. Under Karen Bowyer, enrollment at Dyersburg State grew by more than 100 percent during her tenure.

The impact that Karen Bowyer has had on our community in west Tennessee is absolutely immeasurable. We thank Karen Bowyer for her service,

and Roberta and I wish her the best in her well-deserved retirement.

RECOGNIZING THE 80TH ANNIVERSARY OF NATIONAL BIBLE WEEK

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 80th anniversary of National Bible Week. In 1941, weeks before the United States entered World War II, President Franklin D. Roosevelt declared the week of Thanksgiving as National Bible Week.

This celebration recognizes the spiritual and historical significance of the Bible. It is a week where we can come together and celebrate this holy book. The Bible has shaped our Nation's history and continues to provide guidance to the lives of so many.

Mr. Speaker, I am grateful to live in a country where we can freely read the Scripture and worship the Lord without fear of persecution. The Bible is timeless and continues to provide us with words of wisdom, comfort, and guidance as we navigate unprecedented times.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I would like to leave you with this verse from 2 Timothy 3:16. It is one that I keep close to my heart.

All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

□ 1015

HONORING THE LIVES OF DARIN JOHNS AND MARC BOSWELL

(Mr. PFLUGER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PFLUGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my deepest condolences and prayers to the families of Darin Johns and Marc Boswell, who were tragically killed in a bus crash while traveling with the Andrews High School band.

Darin Johns, the beloved band director, was an active member of the Andrews community who dedicated his life to his faith and his beloved wife, Karen, and their family and friends, and who invested in younger generations as a band director for over 30 years.

He lent all of his time and energy to building up the dreams and talents of those around him.

I also want to recognize Marc Boswell, a humble and beloved Andrews public servant. Marc devoted his life to Andrews as a high school math teacher, was an employee of the Andrews school district, and was involved in the community as a leader and as a friend.

He was known for his servant heart, his incredible work ethic, his infec-

tious smile, and his deep love for his wife, Carol, and their children and grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, Camille and I are sending our support and our prayers, not only to the families of those who were tragically killed, but also to the entire community and Andrews High School.

EXEMPT CRITICAL WORKERS FROM VACCINE REQUIREMENTS

(Mr. NEWHOUSE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Mr. Speaker, our country is in a time of crisis. President Biden's policies have broken our supply chain; caused nationwide shortages and delays; and now, President Biden is holding the workers who keep our country running hostage through his vaccine mandates, further threatening our economic stability.

Federal employees throughout central Washington who operate and protect critical facilities are facing termination over what should be a personal medical decision. They don't deserve to be fired.

That is why I introduced the Exemptions for Critical Workers Act, to ensure these critical workers, who kept our industries functioning long before a vaccine was available to them, can make the health decision that is right for them while continuing their important work.

Just this week, three Federal courts halted the administration's mandate in certain parts of the country for healthcare workers and Federal contractors. Clearly, these mandates are unconstitutional.

I stand with the men and women who were asked to stand on the front lines for our sake, and I urge my colleagues to support my legislation.

ABORTION NOT A FUNDAMENTAL RIGHT

(Mr. BURCHETT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BURCHETT. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, our U.S. Supreme Court Justices held oral arguments in the Dobbs v. Jackson case, which addressed the constitutionality of Mississippi's law banning abortions after 15 weeks.

It is time to get rid of the rules that prevent our legislators from enacting the will of the people and passing laws to protect the unborn, Mr. Speaker.

Chief Justice John Roberts once argued that the right to abortion has "no support in the text, structure, or history of the Constitution." I pray he and the eight other Justices uphold that view in Dobbs v. Jackson. They know the ability to murder unborn children is not one of our fundamental rights.

The Biden administration suspended basic healthcare regulations so doctors

could pass out abortion pills like candy, Mr. Speaker. It is time for our third branch of government to step up now, show some common sense, and make the right decision to protect millions of our unborn babies.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I always remember a story that happened shortly before my momma left this Earth. She was in hospice, and she started talking to folks that had passed a long time before her: my daddy, her daddy, her brother who died in the Second World War. She was looking off at one point, and I said: "What are you looking at, Momma?" And she said: "Baby, I am looking at all of those sweet little babies over there."

I can't help but think some of those sweet little babies my sweet momma was looking at were some of the unborn that were murdered in abortion.

ECONOMIC CRISIS—RISING INFLATION

(Mr. ROSE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ROSE. Mr. Speaker, our Thanksgiving celebration for this year is in the rearview mirror, but the rising inflation that drove dinner costs higher this year is sticking around for Christmas and will continue to crush household budgets into the new year.

From the grocery store to the gas pump, Americans across the board are paying more for just about everything. No matter where you may fall on the income spectrum, none of us can escape paying more for less. However, lower income households and the elderly who are on fixed incomes will be hit hardest by the pain that inflation always inflicts.

What is driving the skyrocketing inflation? Wasteful and increased Federal spending that encourages workers to remain on the sidelines, supply chain shortages, and transportation disruptions are to blame.

Americans are not stupid. That is why a majority say that President Biden's multitrillion-dollar socialist tax-and-spend scheme will only make bad inflation worse, not better.

CONGRATULATING YOUNG HARRIS COLLEGE MEN'S SOCCER TEAM

(Mr. CARTER of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and celebrate the continued accomplishments of Young Harris College Men's Soccer team.

On November 14, the team rallied together to defeat Clayton State, securing their sixth Peach Belt Conference title in program history.

Furthermore, this victory advanced the team to the NCAA Division II National Tournament. Entering the tour-

namment with a 17-0-1 record, the Mountain Lions continued to dominate with a 2-1 win over the Clayton State Lakers for the title.

The team is now set to face off against Auburn University at Montgomery on December 2 in the quarterfinals of the Division II tournament.

These student athletes are to be celebrated for their spirit of unrelenting perseverance. Their hard work, dedication, and determination will be an example future teams will strive to emulate.

I extend my congratulations to the entire YHC Men's Soccer program for their remarkable season and am proud of my alma mater. Go Mountain Lions.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MRVAN). Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 22 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1237

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. CROW) at 12 o'clock and 37 minutes p.m.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 6119, FURTHER EXTENDING GOVERNMENT FUNDING ACT; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Mrs. TORRES of California. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 829 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 829

Resolved, That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the bill (H.R. 6119) making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2022, and for other purposes. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. The bill shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and on any amendment thereto to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations or their respective designees; and (2) one motion to recommit.

SEC. 2. Notwithstanding clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on a vote by the yeas and nays on the question of adoption of a motion that the House suspend the rules offered on the legislative day of November 30, 2021, or December 1, 2021, may be postponed through the legislative day of December 10, 2021.

SEC. 3. House Resolution 188, agreed to March 8, 2021 (as most recently amended by House Resolution 774, agreed to November 5, 2021), is amended by striking "December 3, 2021" each place it appears and inserting (in each instance) "January 21, 2022".

SEC. 4. Notwithstanding section 3 of this resolution, on any legislative day of the second session of the One Hundred Seventeenth Congress before January 10, 2022—

(a) the Speaker may dispense with organizational and legislative business; and

(b) the Journal of the proceedings of the previous day shall be considered as approved if applicable.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from California is recognized for 1 hour.

Mrs. TORRES of California. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. COLE), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. TORRES of California. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members be given 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from California?

There was no objection.

Mrs. TORRES of California. Mr. Speaker, today the Rules Committee met and reported a rule, House Resolution 829. The rule provides for consideration of H.R. 6119 under a closed rule.

The rule provides 1 hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations and one motion to recommit.

The rule also provides that requested roll call votes on suspension bills considered on November 30, December 1, or December 2 may be postponed through December 10.

Finally, the rule provides for recess instruction suspension authority and same-day authority through January 21, 2022, and allowing the House to convene the second session of the 117th Congress on January 10, 2022.

Mr. Speaker, we are here today to consider a continuing resolution to keep our government open and operating for the American people. A continuing resolution will allow the Appropriations Committee to complete its work on full-year appropriation bills and provide needed funding to many critical programs that help our small businesses, our veterans, our local governments, and so much more.

It is, frankly, a bit disturbing that we need a structured rule for this very basic function. I think it speaks volumes that the other side seems uninterested in engaging in our most essential responsibilities. I would say I was surprised but, sadly, this appears to be just another step in a long line of attempts to undermine needed accountability and investment this year.

In September, we passed a continuing resolution to keep the government open until December 3 and allow for the House and Senate to negotiate omnibus government funding legislation.

The other side has so far refused to negotiate for full-year funding bills.

They have refused to be responsible with the programs that so many of our constituents depend upon.

As a member of the Appropriations Committee, I know firsthand the impact that a lack of full-year funding will have.

Without full-year funding, we will not be able to help the VA reduce its backlog to help our veterans and their families.

We will not be able to provide our military with the funding to promote readiness, and we won't be able to provide a badly needed pay raise for our troops.

We also won't be able to help our small businesses, who continue to struggle because of the pandemic.

Those problems may be acceptable to the other side, but not to Democrats. As the economy continues to recover from the pandemic, this bill will ensure that we can keep the government open and avoid the disastrous consequences of the Republican-led 2018-2019 shutdown.

In the meantime, we hope Republicans will start the process of offering constructive proposals to address the critical issues facing our country. Our constituents deserve that much at the very least. I look forward to that discussion when it does occur.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. TORRES), my good friend and not only fellow member of the Rules Committee, but fellow appropriator, for yielding me the customary 30 minutes, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, today's rule covers one item, a continuing resolution to fund the government and keep it open and operating through February 18, 2022.

While I am grateful that we are taking steps to avoid a government shutdown, I am disappointed by the solution before us, yet another short-term funding bill with full-year funding negotiations no closer than they were a few months ago or a few weeks ago.

Mr. Speaker, today's resolution is the second continuing resolution we have had to pass to cover fiscal year 2022. Sadly, I expect it will not be the last. This state of affairs was absolutely avoidable and reflects poorly on the Democratic leadership.

I have often said that government funding is the most fundamental responsibility of Congress. Unfortunately, we are nowhere close to a full-year appropriation funding deal. We are no closer to an agreement today than the last time we passed a continuing resolution in September. The reality is that the reason we are having to consider another continuing resolution today is because of the majority's insistence on focusing on partisan priorities rather than on the critical business of governing the nation.

□ 1245

For months, the majority's focus has not been anywhere near where it

should have been. Instead of reaching a full-year deal on government funding or even a top-line agreement on funding levels, the majority has insisted on working on other partisan matters.

Since the passage of the last stop-gap funding measure, House Democrats have focused solely on their massive reconciliation bill, month after month, focused on enshrining partisan policies into law. These efforts may satisfy their progressive base, but they fail the American people as a whole.

The majority currently controls the House, the Senate, and the Presidency, and if they can swing the votes, they can pass whatever they want into law. But with that ability also comes a grave responsibility, a responsibility to govern the country. Unfortunately, the majority has been abandoning that responsibility.

Mr. Speaker, October 1 marked the beginning of fiscal year 2022. By rights, the House and the Senate should have both passed our standard 12 appropriations bills through both Chambers of Congress and into law by that date. But since we did not, a continuing resolution was necessary.

Now we are on the second continuing resolution of this fiscal year, and in all likelihood, a probable third one is coming in February, unless my friends on the other side actually start negotiating in earnest. At this point, we are unfortunately no closer to passing these 12 bills or an omnibus spending bill than we were back on October 1.

This is truly a failure to govern. While the majority focuses on a push to make the government bigger and bigger, they are failing to fund the government which already exists today.

What happens as a result? We move from continuing resolution to continuing resolution, getting no closer to a final spending deal. Not involving Republicans until the very last minute and just expecting us to indefinitely support CR after CR is no way to govern, and frankly, the failure to have any conversations about how to come to an agreement on a full-year appropriations bill is indefensible.

While I am sure former President Trump will be pleased to know his last budget continues on almost a year after he left office, there is real work that can and should be done.

But what is perhaps the most frustrating has been the way in which the majority has bungled reaching a relatively simple deal on this particular continuing resolution. Knowing full well that this Friday's deadline was coming up, the majority instead dithered for months on their reconciliation package.

This week, finally acknowledging that real discussions needed to be had with Republicans, the majority instead continued to twiddle their thumbs. Indeed, Republicans in the House were completely shut out of this process, leaving us all in the dark about the nature of today's bill until this morning. Once again, the majority has chosen to

go it alone rather than choosing to work across the aisle.

The majority is well aware that their current stance on a larger deal is dead on arrival in the Senate. As long as they continue to insist on omitting the historically bipartisan pro-life protections which have existed in law for more than 45 years, Republicans cannot and will not support bills that end these protections, and the Senate will not pass them.

But that is not the only point of disagreement. The majority has been unwilling to fund our Nation's defense at the levels agreed to by the authorizers and appropriators in the House and currently being debated in the Senate. These increased levels are necessary to ensure continued defense readiness worldwide, especially given the ongoing tensions in places like Eastern Europe, the Middle East, Afghanistan, and the Taiwan Strait.

But instead of governing and seeking to address these challenges, the majority is pandering to the most extreme elements of their Caucus, trying desperately to pass bills that lower defense spending levels and omitting key bipartisan pro-life protections from appropriations bills. And instead of governing, the majority holds the American people hostage under the threat of a government shutdown, dragging the country from one self-inflicted crisis to another.

Mr. Speaker, the sooner the majority gets serious about reaching a full-year deal, the better for the country. There are real, damaging consequences to the failure to pass full-year appropriations bills, both at home and abroad, and the sooner the majority brings its attention back to the critical business of governing the country, the better off we all will be.

Mr. Speaker, I urge opposition to the rule, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. TORRES of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I once again state that the failure of not being able to pass a timely budget lies at the feet of the Republican Party. They have refused to come to the table with actual fair negotiations.

If my colleagues across the aisle want to have a debate on a woman's right to choose what to do with their bodies, then I would welcome that.

I would also welcome a debate on issues like gun violence. If we care about life and we say that we are pro-life, we should be pro-life for everyone, including our high school students that are suffering every single day at the hands of the failure of this Republican Party to come to the table.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

If we defeat the previous question, I will offer an amendment on the rule to immediately bring up H.R. 6056, the Parents Bill of Rights Act.

Mr. Speaker, education is one of the most important issues that we face today. Determining how our children will be educated determines the future fate of our Nation.

Unfortunately, many school districts have been ignoring the wishes of parents or, worse, telling parents they cannot play a role in their child's education.

Democratic gubernatorial candidate Terry McAuliffe made Democrats' position on education clear when he said: "I don't think parents should be telling schools what they should teach." I couldn't disagree with him more, and thankfully, neither could Virginia voters.

Instead, H.R. 6056, developed by Education and Labor Committee Republicans, would enshrine a list of rights into law to make clear to parents what their rights are and clear to schools what their duties to parents are.

These rights include the right to know what their children are being taught, the right of parents to be heard, and the right to protect their child's privacy.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to insert the text of my amendment in the RECORD, along with extraneous material, immediately prior to the vote on the previous question.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Oklahoma?

There was no objection.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Louisiana (Ms. LETLOW), the sponsor of H.R. 6056 and a member of the Education and Labor Committee.

Ms. LETLOW. Mr. Speaker, I rise to oppose the previous question so we can immediately take up H.R. 6056, the Parents Bill of Rights Act.

As a mom of two and a former educator, I can tell you from firsthand experience that education is not something that can happen without parents playing a role. The learning process requires both sides to work together and have collaborative partnerships that ensure a student's success.

Parents should not have a system of values and beliefs forced on their children or send them to school while fearing indoctrination by a political agenda. The idea that government can exclude parents and have total control of the classroom will never work because it ignores the simple truth that these are our children, not the government's.

The Parents Bill of Rights Act puts safeguards in place that ensure that the foundation of education is built on a meaningful dialogue between a family and their child's school. This bill has five core principles that are designed to create mutually beneficial partnerships and lead to greater collaboration.

Those five principles are: one, parents have the right to review their school's curriculum, reading materials, and State academic standards; two, parents have the right to lawfully en-

gage with their local school board and educators; three, parents have the right to see a school's budget and spending, including detailed information about revenues and expenditures; four, parents have the right to protect their child's privacy; and, finally, parents have the right to keep their child safe and be updated on any violent activity at school.

The ideas contained in this bill are not partisan or polarizing; they are simple and common sense. In my home State of Louisiana, a similar parents bill of rights passed with broad support from both Republicans and Democrats, and I hope we can follow suit here in Congress.

Several weeks ago, Louisiana's State Superintendent of Education, Dr. Cade Brumley, wrote about how family involvement is critical for educational success. He said: "It takes a family to raise a child. Schools exist to support that effort with a responsibility to provide a quality education in a safe environment."

Mr. Speaker, we have the opportunity today in this body to take a step forward for America's families, and I hope my colleagues across the aisle will join us in that effort.

Mrs. TORRES of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I welcome a healthy debate on the future of our children while they are in school. A healthy debate will also include a responsible code of conduct, basic respect, and accountability issues.

It would also include accepting the fact that our children every single day are subject to gun violence, but yet, conspiracy theories in full display in Congress continue to deny our children and their parents the safety that they are demanding.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Utah (Mr. OWENS), my good friend and ranking member of the Early Childhood, Elementary, and Secondary Education Subcommittee, for further explanation of the previous question.

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to oppose the previous question so that we can immediately consider H.R. 6056, the Parents Bill of Rights Act.

As a father of six children and a grandfather of 15, I know from experience that parents who are informed and engaged are always the best advocates for their own children.

I also grew up in a home with teachers. My dad was a college professor for 40 years, and my mom was a junior high school teacher.

Recent attempts to discredit the role of parents and to silence their genuine concerns should be very concerning to every American. There has never been a time more important than now to stand with and for America's parents.

I have heard directly from Utah's moms and dads. They don't want Wash-

ington bureaucrats and career politicians dictating the decisions that determine the education, development, health, and well-being of their children. They want and deserve a say.

Democrats' and the leftist teachers unions' efforts to nationalize education, mandate curriculum, and impose one-size-fits-all models from D.C., while ignoring the will of teachers, parents, and students, have been extremely harmful.

This last year, we have seen the academic and emotional needs of young learners totally ignored. Keeping our children out of the classroom went against the science. It also went against good old-fashioned common sense.

Here are some sobering facts. During the 2020 through 2021 school year, students fell behind an average of 5 months in math and 4 months in reading. Low-income and minority children fell an additional 1 to 2 months behind their White and wealthy peers.

Even before the pandemic in 2017, the United States Department of Education found that 75 percent of Black boys in the State of California failed to pass standard reading and writing tests. In 2019, only 15 percent of Baltimore eighth grade students were proficient in reading, and about 10 percent were proficient in math.

This is beyond politics and party lines. It is about the future of our great Nation. It is about the success of our children.

There is an urgent need to raise the bar of education in our country. We cannot do this by pushing parents out of the driver's seat and ignoring academic needs for our students. Our Parents Bill of Rights will address both concerns.

Mrs. TORRES of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Continuing conspiracy theories, the big lie, drove thousands of Americans to come to the U.S. Capitol in a violent attempt to overthrow our government. In full display today, once again we have Republicans that are continuing with their conspiracy theories about what is and isn't happening on our school grounds.

Well, let me tell you what is happening in some of the schools in my district.

For the very first time, under the Biden administration, children have access to healthy food. They have food programs. They are learning how to grow their own food.

For the very first time, families that spend hours driving to and from work, hardworking parents, have the relief of knowing that childcare is available for their children.

This is what is at stake today, the real issues of what is happening and not happening in our schools and access to education. It doesn't just take a healthy family to raise a child. In the words of the former first lady, sometimes it takes a village.

Vote on this CR. Fund the government and continue to fund healthy programs that help our children thrive in their schools.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1300

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX), my very good friend and the ranking member of the Committee on Education and Labor, for further explanation on the previous question.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague from Oklahoma for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to defeat the previous question so we can bring up H.R. 6056, the Parents Bill of Rights Act.

There has been a push to silence parents around the country. Powerful teachers unions, several school boards, Democrat politicians, and the Biden Justice Department have all voiced opposition to the rights of parents to have a say in their child's education.

We will not stand for this kind of intimidation, and we will not tolerate the left's attempt to push parents out of the decisionmaking process when it comes to their child's education.

That is why we have introduced the Parents Bill of Rights. This legislation will protect rights parents already have but that are now under attack.

I can't imagine why anyone would oppose the Parents Bill of Rights Act. Making school spending and curriculum transparent should already be the norm. After all, what do schools have to hide?

This bill will also ensure that schools do not share or sell private student data or attempt to administer health examinations without parental consent. These are extremely important decisions that belong to parents, not bureaucrats or school administrators.

The left's assault on parental rights is outrageous. To claim that parents are akin to domestic terrorists just because they don't agree with the left's agenda is beyond the pale. Yet, it is these very attacks that have shown Americans all around the country just how important it is to stand up to the left. We cannot let our fundamental rights be stripped from us, especially the right to raise our children.

This bill is ushering in a new era of education, one where parents won't take a back seat to the system. One thing is certain, our children and the country will be better off for having the Parents Bill of Rights.

Mrs. TORRES of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, by continuing to promote conspiracy theories and refusing to come to the table to talk about the real issues that we are funding here today, the Republicans in Congress continue to deny parents and children the education that they need by continuing to deny healthy food programs, once again.

So let's focus on what is healthy and not healthy for our children. Continuing to drink the Kool-Aid that led thousands of people to hurt our U.S. Capitol Police officers, to beat them with our own American flag, that is what they are selling here today.

We need to work on a budget for the people. This is the people's House. That is why they voted for us to come to Congress. Let's focus on the real issues and not play into the political theater that is being offered here today.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, the bill in front of us, in some ways, is a simple bill. It is a continuing resolution. It goes for a certain amount of time. Sadly, it reflects the basic failure of this institution to focus on its job.

We have had more than a year to deal with what we should be dealing with, the passage of the budget. We extended—I actually voted for the extension—the last continuing resolution to provide time.

Now, my friends knew at the beginning of this process the number of things that they had to do. They knew if they took out the Hyde language and those protections that they would never get a deal. Yet, they did that anyway.

They did that without consultation. They did it in committee. They had the votes. They had every right to do it. They also knew at the end of the day they were going to have to have bipartisanship on appropriations bills. They will not pass in the Senate because of the filibuster. There is sufficient support on both sides of the aisle.

Every single Republican in this Chamber actually supported the reinsertion of the Hyde amendment in the legislative process, telling our friends: If you take this out, we are not going to be working with you until it is restored.

So far, we have not seen any effort to do that.

Mr. Speaker, my friends on the other side also put in lots of poison pills—again, lots of things that they knew Republicans would not accept. That is fine in a reconciliation package. They really don't need our votes. That is not true in an appropriations bill.

It is my understanding that both ranking members in both Chambers on the Committee on Appropriations said: Look, we are not sitting down to negotiate until the Hyde protections are back in.

They are historically bipartisan. They have been there 45 years. Most of my friends on the other side of the aisle have voted for them over and over and over again, whether they liked them or not.

Frankly, if you are going to have to get a bipartisan deal, when you put partisan pills in, you know you are going to have to take them out at some point. You might as well do it at the beginning of the session.

We also have had no engagement from either the administration or our friends on the other side about any spending limits whatsoever. What is our top-line number? Nobody has been willing to sit down and talk about that. Quite frankly, that is a problem.

Mr. Speaker, we probably ought to be looking at that, as we have done in previous years over multiple years going forward. We could also make adjustments if we are in a crisis. We have done that before. But we had a framework that we could operate under, and it has actually facilitated the appropriations. I would recommend to my friends that might be something they want to talk about with both sides.

But in the end, the deal here is not hard to see. The deal involves three simple things. There are lots of details, lots of other things to be negotiated.

First, defense spending is going to have to come up. That is not just Republicans telling you that. The Democratic-controlled House Committee on Armed Services and the Democratic-controlled Senate Committee on Armed Services both put in \$25 billion more than in the President's base budget or in the bill that our friends passed out of committee but never brought to this floor because they don't have the votes to pass it. So that is one.

Number two, my friends, in the 12 bills that they have passed through the Committee on Appropriations—and I commend them for that—raised domestic spending by 17 or 18 percent. That number is going to have to come down. We can talk about how much, and we can talk about where, but it is way too much, and it is way out of balance.

And number three—and my friends were told this over and over and over again—if you take out the Hyde protections on life, there will be no Republican votes for your bill. Now, we can pass continuing resolution after continuing resolution. After all, that is Donald Trump's last negotiated budget, the budget you got when you had a Republican President, Republican Senate, and a Democratic House.

Mr. Speaker, quite frankly, many of my friends on my side of the aisle would prefer that. I would prefer a deal. I would prefer a more robust defense budget. I am willing to talk about some of my friends' domestic priorities—quite frankly, some of which I share and would support and have in the past. I am also, though, not prepared to yield on the Hyde amendment, and my friends know that.

Mr. Speaker, we know what a deal is: more defense; less domestic spending; removal of poison pills; restoration of historic, bipartisan protections on life. Do those things and we can have a deal, I think, pretty quickly. Stay where you are at and we will not have a deal, and we will be right back here in February, doing another continuing resolution.

The most basic responsibility of Congress is to fund the government. Unfortunately, we are no closer to a full-

year spending deal that we truly need. My colleagues in the majority have wasted months focusing on other matters—notably, a wildly expensive and unrealistic reconciliation spending package—rather than doing the hard and essential work of governing the Nation. I urge my friends in the majority to rethink that course.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote “no” on the previous question and “no” on the rule, and I yield back the balance of my time.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Mr. ROY. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to adjourn offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. Roy).

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. ROY. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 3(s) of House Resolution 8, the yeas and nays are ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 200, nays 224, not voting 9, as follows:

[Roll No. 394]

YEAS—200

Aderholt	Fallon	Joyce (OH)
Allen	Feenstra	Joyce (PA)
Amodei	Ferguson	Katko
Armstrong	Fischbach	Keller
Arrington	Fitzgerald	Kelly (MS)
Babin	Fitzpatrick	Kelly (PA)
Bacon	Fleischmann	Kustoff
Baird	Fortenberry	LaHood
Balderson	Fox	LaMalfa
Banks	Franklin, C.	Lamborn
Barr	Scott	Latta
Bentz	Fulcher	LaTurner
Bergman	Gaetz	Lesko
Bice (OK)	Gallagher	Letlow
Biggs	Garbarino	Long
Bilirakis	Garcia (CA)	Loudermilk
Bishop (NC)	Gibbs	Lucas
Boebert	Gimenez	Luetkemeyer
Bost	Gohmert	Mace
Brady	Gonzales, Tony	Malliotakis
Brooks	Gonzalez (OH)	Mann
Buchanan	Good (VA)	Mast
Buck	Gooden (TX)	McCarthy
Bucshon	Gosar	McCaul
Budd	Granger	McClain
Burchett	Graves (LA)	McClintock
Burgess	Graves (MO)	McHenry
Calvert	Greene (GA)	McKinley
Cammack	Griffith	Meijer
Carey	Grothman	Meuser
Carl	Guest	Miller (IL)
Carter (GA)	Guthrie	Miller (WV)
Carter (TX)	Hagedorn	Miller-Meeks
Cawthorn	Harris	Moolenaar
Chabot	Harshbarger	Moore (AL)
Cline	Hartzler	Mullin
Cloud	Hern	Newhouse
Clyde	Herrell	Norman
Cole	Herrera Beutler	Nunes
Comer	Hice (GA)	Oberholte
Crawford	Higgins (LA)	Owens
Crenshaw	Hill	Palazzo
Curtis	Hinson	Palmer
Davidson	Hollingsworth	Pence
Davis, Rodney	Hudson	Perry
DesJarlais	Huizenga	Pfleger
Diaz-Balart	Issa	Posey
Donalds	Jackson	Reed
Duncan	Jacobs (NY)	Rice (SC)
Dunn	Johnson (LA)	Rogers (AL)
Ellzey	Johnson (OH)	Rogers (KY)
Emmer	Johnson (SD)	Rose
Estes	Jordan	Rosendale

Rouzer	Steel
Roy	Stefanik
Rutherford	Steil
Salazar	Steube
Scalise	Stewart
Schweikert	Taylor
Scott, Austin	Tenney
Sessions	Thompson (PA)
Smith (MO)	Tiffany
Smith (NE)	Timmons
Smith (NJ)	Turner
Smucker	Upton
Spartz	Valadao
Stauber	Van Drew

NAYS—224

Adams	Gonzalez,	Ocasio-Cortez
Aguilar	Vicente	Pallone
Allred	Gottheimer	Panetta
Auchincloss	Green, Al (TX)	Pappas
Axne	Grijalva	Pascarell
Barragán	Harder (CA)	Payne
Bass	Hayes	Perlmutter
Beatty	Higgins (NY)	Peters
Bera	Himes	Phillips
Beyer	Horsford	Pingree
Bishop (GA)	Houlahan	Pocan
Blumenauer	Hoyer	Porter
Blunt Rochester	Huffman	Pressley
Bonamici	Jackson Lee	Price (NC)
Bourdeaux	Jacobs (CA)	Quigley
Bowman	Jayapal	Raskin
Boyle, Brendan	Jeffries	Rice (NY)
F.	Johnson (GA)	Rodgers (WA)
Brown (MD)	Johnson (TX)	Ross
Brown (OH)	Jones	Roybal-Allard
Brownley	Kahele	Ruiz
Bush	Kaptur	Ruppersberger
Bustos	Keating	Rush
Butterfield	Kelly (IL)	Ryan
Carbajal	Khanna	Sánchez
Cárdenas	Kildee	Sarbanes
Carson	Kilmer	Scanlon
Carter (LA)	Kim (CA)	Schakowsky
Cartwright	Kim (NJ)	Schiff
Case	Kind	Schneider
Casten	Kirkpatrick	Schrader
Castor (FL)	Krishnamoorthi	Schrier
Castro (TX)	Kuster	Scott (VA)
Chu	Lamb	Scott, David
Cicilline	Langevin	Sewell
Clark (MA)	Larsen (WA)	Sherman
Clarke (NY)	Larson (CT)	Sherrill
Cleaver	Lawrence	Simpson
Clyburn	Lawson (FL)	Sires
Cohen	Lee (CA)	Slotkin
Connolly	Lee (NV)	Smith (WA)
Cooper	Leger Fernandez	Soto
Correa	Levin (CA)	Speier
Costa	Levin (MI)	Stansbury
Courtney	Lieu	Stanton
Craig	Lofgren	Stevens
Crist	Lowenthal	Strickland
Crow	Luria	Suozzi
Cuellar	Lynch	Swalwell
Davids (KS)	Malinowski	Takano
Davis, Danny K.	Maloney,	Thompson (CA)
Dean	Carolyn B.	Thompson (MS)
DeFazio	Maloney, Sean	Titus
DeGette	Manning	Tlaib
DeLauro	Matsui	Tonko
DeBene	McBath	Torres (CA)
Delgado	McCollum	Torres (NY)
Demings	McEachin	Trahan
DeSaulnier	McGovern	Trone
Deutch	McNerney	Underwood
Dingell	Meeks	Vargas
Doggett	Meng	Veasey
Doyle, Michael	Mfume	Vela
F.	Moore (UT)	Velázquez
Escobar	Moore (WI)	Wasserman
Eshoo	Morelle	Schultz
Esipailat	Moulton	Waters
Evans	Mrvan	Watson Coleman
Fletcher	Murphy (FL)	Welch
Foster	Murphy (NC)	Wexton
Frankel, Lois	Nadler	Wild
Gallego	Napolitano	Williams (GA)
Garamendi	Neal	Wilson (FL)
García (IL)	Neguse	Yarmuth
García (TX)	Newman	Young
Golden	Norcross	
Gomez	O'Halleran	

NOT VOTING—9

Cheney	Massie	Omar
Green (TN)	Mooney	Reschenthaler
Kinzinger	Nehls	Spanberger

□ 1347

Mr. TORRES of New York, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Messrs. GRIJALVA, CUELLER, DOGGETT, JEFFRIES, BOWMAN, COURTNEY, VARGAS, SCOTT of Virginia, Mses. NEWMAN, KAPTUR, MOORE of Wisconsin, ESHOO, SCANLON, BASS, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Ms. JOHNSON of Texas, and Mr. SUOZZI changed their vote from “yea” to “nay.”

Messrs. CRENSHAW, WITTMAN, FERGUSON, LONG, MULLIN, BACON, and GARCIA of California changed their vote from “nay” to “yea.”

Messrs. O'HALLERAN and PERLMUTTER changed their vote from “present” to “nay.”

So the motion to adjourn was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

MEMBERS RECORDED PURSUANT TO HOUSE RESOLUTION 8, 117TH CONGRESS

Adams (Brown (MD))	Lawson (FL) (Evans)	Rush (Quigley) (Sires (Pallone))
Cárdenas (Soto)	Lesko (Miller (WV))	Stewart (Owens)
Crist	(Wasserman (Schultz))	Swalwell
(Wasserman (Schultz))	Meng (Kuster) (Moore (UT))	(Gomez)
Curtis (Meijer)	(Owens)	Takano (Chu)
DeFazio	Palazzo	Tiffany
(Carbajal)	(Fleischmann)	(Arrington)
Fulcher (Johnson (OH))	Payne (Pallone)	Underwood
(OH))	Porter (Wexton)	(Casten)
Hagedorn	Posey	Vela (Gomez)
(Moolenaar)	(Cammack)	Watson Coleman
Kildee (Ryan)	Reed (Kelly (PA))	(Pallone)
Lawrence	(Johnson (GA))	Wilson (FL)
	Ruiz (Aguilar)	(Hayes)

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 6119, FURTHER EXTENDING GOVERNMENT FUNDING ACT; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. DEGETTE). The gentleman from Oklahoma has yielded back. The gentleman from California is recognized to close.

Mrs. TORRES of California. Madam Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

We have just witnessed, once again, that the other side of the aisle has zero—zero—interest in governing. Zero. Republicans apparently have no interest in leading and zero—no agenda on how to lead. Zero.

Meanwhile, Democrats are trying to make sure that the programs that our constituents depend on will be able to continue. Democrats are trying to make sure that our troops—you know, the ones that you claim to support—have the resources to defend our country, to defend the Constitution that you have sworn to defend.

Democrats are trying to make sure that our hospitals and our health clinics have the resources to help those who are sick with COVID. You can boo all you want, but many of you have continued to spread this pandemic by refusing to wear a mask.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to direct their remarks to the Chair.

Mrs. TORRES of California. Madam Speaker, we are seeing a full display of

the political theater that the Republicans bring to Congress. Zero.

Madam Speaker, as we saw in the last vote, Republicans just want to go home. They just want to go home. Democrats are here for the people. We need to keep the government open. We need to work on full-year funding bills to address the critical challenges that our Nation faces. Democrats are here to lead.

Madam Speaker, I urge a “yes” vote on the CR. I urge a “yes” vote on the rule and the previous question.

The material previously referred to by Mr. COLE is as follows:

AMENDMENT TO HOUSE RESOLUTION 829

At the end of the resolution, add the following:

SEC. 5. Immediately upon adoption of this resolution, the House shall proceed to the consideration in the House of the bill (H.R. 6056) to ensure the rights of parents are honored and protected in the Nation's public schools. All point of order against consideration of the bill are waived. The bill shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions of the bill are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and on any amendment thereto to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one house of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Education and Labor; and (2) one motion to recommit.

SEC. 6. Clause 1(c) of rule XIX shall not apply to the consideration of H.R. 6056.

Mrs. TORRES of California. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on ordering the previous question.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. COLE. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 218, nays 209, not voting 6, as follows:

[Roll No. 395]

YEAS—218

Adams	Case	DeSaulnier
Aguilar	Casten	Deutch
Allred	Castor (FL)	Dingell
Auchincloss	Castro (TX)	Doggett
Axne	Chu	Doyle, Michael
Barragán	Cielline	F.
Bass	Clark (MA)	Escobar
Beatty	Clarke (NY)	Eshoo
Bera	Cleaver	Españillat
Beyer	Clyburn	Evans
Bishop (GA)	Cohen	Fletcher
Blumenauer	Connolly	Foster
Blunt Rochester	Cooper	Galleo
Bonamici	Correa	Garamendi
Bourdeaux	Costa	Garcia (IL)
Bowman	Courtney	Garcia (TX)
Boyle, Brendan	Craig	Golden
F.	Crist	Gomez
Brown (MD)	Crow	Gonzalez,
Brown (OH)	Cuellar	Vicente
Brownley	Dauids (KS)	Gottheimer
Bush	Davis, Danny K.	Green, Al (TX)
Bustos	Dean	Grijalva
Butterfield	DeFazio	Harder (CA)
Carbajal	DeGette	Hayes
Cárdenas	DeLauro	Higgins (NY)
Carson	DelBene	Himes
Carter (LA)	Delgado	Horsford
Cartwright	Demings	Houlahan

Hoyer	McGovern	Schneider	Palmer	Scott, Austin	Turner
Huffman	McNerney	Schrader	Pence	Sessions	Upton
Jackson Lee	Meeks	Schrier	Perry	Simpson	Valadao
Jacobs (CA)	Meng	Scott (VA)	Pfleger	Smith (MO)	Van Drew
Jayapal	Mfume	Scott, David	Posey	Smith (NE)	Van Dyne
Jeffries	Moore (WI)	Sewell	Reed	Smith (NJ)	Wagner
Johnson (GA)	Morelle	Sherman	Reschenthaler	Smucker	Walberg
Johnson (TX)	Moulton	Sherrill	Rice (SC)	Spartz	Walorski
Jones	Mrvan	Sires	Rodgers (WA)	Stauber	Waltz
Kahele	Murphy (FL)	Slotkin	Rogers (AL)	Steel	Weber (TX)
Kaptur	Nadler	Smith (WA)	Rogers (KY)	Stefanik	Webster (FL)
Keating	Napolitano	Soto	Rose	Steil	Wenstrup
Kelly (IL)	Neal	Spanberger	Rosendale	Steube	Westerman
Khanna	Neguse	Speier	Rouzer	Stewart	Williams (TX)
Kildee	Newman	Stansbury	Roy	Taylor	Wilson (SC)
Kilmer	Norcross	Stanton	Rutherford	Tenney	Wittman
Kim (NJ)	O'Halleran	Stevens	Salazar	Thompson (PA)	Womack
Kind	Ocasio-Cortez	Strickland	Scalise	Tiffany	Young
Kirkpatrick	Omar	Suozzi	Schweikert	Timmons	Zeldin
Krishnamoorthi	Pallone	Swalwell			
Kuster	Panetta	Takano	Frankel, Lois	Kinzingar	Norman
Lamb	Pappas	Thompson (CA)	Jordan	Massie	Tlaib
Langevin	Pascrell	Thompson (MS)			
Larsen (WA)	Payne				
Larson (CT)	Perlmutter				
Lawrence	Peters				
Lawson (FL)	Phillips				
Lee (CA)	Pingree				
Lee (NV)	Pocan				
Leger Fernandez	Porter				
Levin (CA)	Pressley				
Levin (MI)	Price (NC)				
Lieu	Quigley				
Lofgren	Raskin				
Lowenthal	Rice (NY)				
Luria	Ross				
Lynch	Roybal-Allard				
Malinowski	Ruiz				
Maloney,	Ruppersberger				
Carolyn B.	Rush				
Maloney, Sean	Ryan				
Manning	Sánchez				
Matsui	Sarbanes				
McBath	Scanlon				
McCollum	Schakowsky				
McEachin	Schiff				

NAYS—209

Aderholt	Ellzey	Jackson
Allen	Emmer	Jacobs (NY)
Amodei	Estes	Johnson (LA)
Armstrong	Fallon	Johnson (OH)
Arrington	Feenstra	Johnson (SD)
Babin	Ferguson	Joyce (OH)
Bacon	Fischbach	Joyce (PA)
Baird	Fitzgerald	Katko
Balderson	Fitzpatrick	Keller
Banks	Fleischmann	Kelly (MS)
Barr	Portenberry	Kelly (PA)
Bentz	Foxx	Kim (CA)
Bergman	Franklin, C.	Kustoff
Bice (OK)	Scott	LaHood
Biggs	Fulcher	LaMalfa
Bilirakis	Gaetz	Lamborn
Bishop (NC)	Gallagher	Latta
Boebert	Garbarino	LaTurner
Bost	Garcia (CA)	Lesko
Brady	Gibbs	Letlow
Brooks	Gimenez	Long
Buchanan	Gohmert	Loudermilk
Buck	Gonzales, Tony	Lucas
Bucshon	Gonzalez (OH)	Luetkemeyer
Budd	Good (VA)	Mace
Burchett	Gooden (TX)	Malliotakis
Burgess	Gosar	Mann
Calvert	Granger	Mast
Cammack	Graves (LA)	McCarthy
Carey	Graves (MO)	McCaul
Carl	Green (TN)	McClain
Carter (GA)	Greene (GA)	McClintock
Carter (TX)	Griffith	McHenry
Cawthorn	Grothman	McKinley
Chabot	Guest	Meijer
Cheney	Guthrie	Meuser
Cline	Hagedorn	Miller (IL)
Cloud	Harris	Miller (WV)
Clyde	Harshbarger	Miller-Meeks
Cole	Hartzler	Mooleenaar
Comer	Hern	Mooney
Crawford	Herrrell	Moore (AL)
Crenshaw	Herrera Beutler	Moore (UT)
Curtis	Hice (GA)	Mullin
Davidson	Higgins (LA)	Murphy (NC)
Davis, Rodney	Hill	Nehls
DesJarlais	Hinson	Newhouse
Diaz-Balart	Hollingsworth	Nunes
Donalds	Hudson	Overmote
Duncan	Huizenga	Owens
Dunn	Issa	Palazzo

NOT VOTING—6

□ 1414

So the previous question was ordered. The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Stated for:

Ms. TLAIB. Madam Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted “yea” on rollcall No. 395.

MEMBERS RECORDED PURSUANT TO HOUSE RESOLUTION 8, 117TH CONGRESS

Adams (Brown (MD))	Lawrence (Johnson (GA))	Reschenthaler (Meuser)
Cárdenas (Soto)	Lawson (FL)	Ruiz (Aguilar)
Crist	(Evans)	Rush (Quigley)
(Wasserman Schultz)	Lesko (Miller (WV))	Sires (Pallone)
Curtis (Meijer)	Meng (Kuster)	Stewart (Owens)
DeFazio	Moore (UT)	Swalwell
(Carbajal)	(Owens)	(Gomez)
Fulcher (Johnson (OH))	Palazzo	Takano (Chu)
Garcia (TX)	(Fleischmann)	Tiffany
(Jeffries)	Payne (Pallone)	(Arrington)
Green (TX)	Porter (Wexton)	Underwood
(Cuellar)	Posey	(Casten)
Hagedorn	(Cammack)	Vela (Gomez)
(Moolenaar)	Reed (Kelly)	Watson Coleman
Kildee (Ryan)	(PA))	(Pallone)
		Wilson (FL)
		(Hayes)

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. TITUS). The question is on the resolution.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. COLE. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 3(s) of House Resolution 8, the yeas and nays are ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 219, nays 208, not voting 6, as follows:

[Roll No. 396]

YEAS—219

Adams	Bustos	Courtney
Aguilar	Butterfield	Craig
Allred	Carbajal	Crist
Auchincloss	Cárdenas	Crow
Axne	Carson	Cuellar
Barragán	Carter (LA)	Davis (KS)
Bass	Cartwright	Davis, Danny K.
Beatty	Case	Dean
Bera	Casten	DeFazio
Beyer	Castor (FL)	DeGette
Bishop (GA)	Castro (TX)	DeLauro
Blumenauer	Chu	DeBene
Blunt Rochester	Cielline	Delgado
Bonamici	Clark (MA)	Demings
Bourdeaux	Clarke (NY)	DeSaulnier
Bowman	Cleaver	Deutch
Boyle, Brendan	Clyburn	Dingell
F.	Cohen	Doggett
Brown (MD)	Connolly	Doyle, Michael
Brown (OH)	Cooper	F.
Brownley	Correa	Escobar
Bush	Costa	Eshoo

Espallat
 Evans
 Fletcher
 Foster
 Frankel, Lois
 Gallego
 Garamendi
 Garcia (IL)
 Garcia (TX)
 Golden
 Gomez
 Gonzalez,
 Vicente
 Gottheimer
 Green, Al (TX)
 Grijalva
 Harder (CA)
 Hayes
 Higgins (NY)
 Himes
 Horsford
 Houlihan
 Hoyer
 Huffman
 Jackson Lee
 Jacobs (CA)
 Jayapal
 Jeffries
 Johnson (GA)
 Johnson (TX)
 Jones
 Kahele
 Kaptur
 Kelly (IL)
 Khanna
 Kildee
 Kilmer
 Kim (NJ)
 Kind
 Kirkpatrick
 Krishnamoorthi
 Kuster
 Lamb
 Langevin
 Larsen (WA)
 Larson (CT)
 Lawrence
 Lawson (FL)
 Lee (CA)
 Lee (NV)
 Leger Fernandez
 Levin (CA)
 Levin (MI)

NAYS—208

Lieu
 Lofgren
 Lowenthal
 Luria
 Lynch
 Malinowski
 Maloney,
 Carolyn B.
 Maloney, Sean
 Manning
 Matsui
 McBath
 McCollum
 McEachin
 McGovern
 McNeerney
 Meeks
 Meng
 Mfume
 Moore (WI)
 Morelle
 Moulton
 Mrvan
 Murphy (FL)
 Nadler
 Napolitano
 Neal
 Neguse
 Newman
 Norcross
 O'Halleran
 Ocasio-Cortez
 Omar
 Pallone
 Panetta
 Pappas
 Pascrell
 Payne
 Perlmutter
 Peters
 Phillips
 Pingree
 Pocan
 Porter
 Pressley
 Price (NC)
 Quigley
 Raskin
 Rice (NY)
 Ross
 Roybal-Allard
 Ruiz
 Ruppersberger

Rush
 Ryan
 Sanchez
 Sarbanes
 Scanlon
 Schakowsky
 Schiff
 Schneider
 Schrader
 Schrier
 Scott (VA)
 Scott, David
 Sewell
 Sherman
 Sherrill
 Sires
 Slotkin
 Smith (WA)
 Soto
 Spanberger
 Speier
 Stansbury
 Stanton
 Stevens
 Strickland
 Suozzi
 Swailwell
 Takano
 Thompson (CA)
 Thompson (MS)
 Titus
 Tlaib
 Tonko
 Torres (CA)
 Torres (NY)
 Trahan
 Trone
 Underwood
 Vargas
 Veasey
 Vela
 Velázquez
 Wasserman
 Schultz
 Waters
 Watson Coleman
 Welch
 Wexton
 Wild
 Williams (GA)
 Wilson (FL)
 Yarmuth

McClain
 McClintock
 McHenry
 McKinley
 Meijer
 Meuser
 Miller (WV)
 Miller-Meeks
 Moolenaar
 Mooney
 Moore (AL)
 Moore (UT)
 Mullin
 Murphy (NC)
 Nehls
 Newhouse
 Nunes
 Obernolte
 Owens
 Palazzo
 Palmer
 Pence
 Perry
 Pfluger
 Posey
 Reed

Brady
 Keating

Rescenthaler
 Rice (SC)
 Rodgers (WA)
 Rogers (AL)
 Rogers (KY)
 Rose
 Rosendale
 Rouzer
 Roy
 Rutherford
 Salazar
 Scalise
 Schweikert
 Scott, Austin
 Sessions
 Simpson
 Smith (MO)
 Smith (NE)
 Smith (NJ)
 Smucker
 Spartz
 Stauber
 Steel
 Stefanik
 Steil
 Steube

NOT VOTING—6

Kinzinger
 Massie

□ 1432

So the resolution was agreed to.
 The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, a motion to reconsider is laid on the table.

Mr. ROY. Madam Speaker, I object.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Objection is heard.

MEMBERS RECORDED PURSUANT TO HOUSE RESOLUTION 8, 117TH CONGRESS

Adams (Brown (MD))
 Cárdenas (Soto)
 Crist
 (Wasserman Schultz)
 Curtis (Meijer)
 DeFazio
 (Carbajal)
 Frankel, Lois
 (Kuster)
 Fulcher (Johnson (OH))
 Garcia (TX)
 (Jeffries)
 Green (TX)
 (Cuellar)
 Hagedorn
 (Moolenaar)
 Kildee (Ryan)
 Lawrence
 (Johnson (GA))
 Lawson (FL)
 (Evans)
 Lesko (Miller (WV))
 Meng (Kuster)
 Moore (UT)
 (Owens)
 Palazzo
 (Fleischmann)
 Payne (Pallone)
 Porter (Wexton)
 Posey
 (Cammack)
 Reed (Kelly (PA))
 Rescenthaler
 (Meuser)
 Ruiz (Aguilar)
 Rush (Quigley)
 Sires (Pallone)
 Stewart (Owens)
 Swailwell
 (Gomez)
 Takano (Chu)
 Tiffany
 (Arrington)
 Underwood
 (Casten)
 Vela (Gomez)
 Watson Coleman
 (Pallone)
 Wilson (FL)
 (Hayes)

MOTION TO RECONSIDER

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Madam Speaker, I have a motion at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the motion.

The Clerk read as follows:

Ms. Roybal-Allard moves to reconsider the vote on adoption of the resolution.

MOTION TO TABLE

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I have a motion at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the motion.

The Clerk read as follows:

Mr. McGovern moves to table the motion to reconsider.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to table.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. ROY. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 3(s) of House Resolution 8, the yeas and nays are ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 217, nays 202, not voting 14, as follows:

[Roll No. 397]

YEAS—217

Adams
 Aguilar
 Allred
 Auchincloss
 Axne
 Barragán
 Bass
 Beatty
 Bera
 Beyer
 Bishop (GA)
 Blumenauer
 Blunt Rochester
 Bonamici
 Bourdeaux
 Bowman
 Boyle, Brendan
 F.
 Brown (MD)
 Brown (OH)
 Brownley
 Bush
 Bustos
 Butterfield
 Carbajal
 Cárdenas
 Carson
 Carter (LA)
 Cartwright
 Case
 Casten
 Castor (FL)
 Castro (TX)
 Chu
 Cicilline
 Clark (MA)
 Clarke (NY)
 Cleaver
 Clyburn
 Cohen
 Connolly
 Cooper
 Correa
 Costa
 Courtney
 Craig
 Crist
 Crow
 Cuellar
 Davids (KS)
 Davis, Danny K.
 Dean
 DeFazio
 DeGette
 DeLauro
 DelBene
 Delgado
 Demings
 DeSaulnier
 Deutch
 Dingell
 Doggett
 Doyle, Michael
 F.
 Escobar
 Espallat
 Evans
 Fletcher
 Foster
 Frankel, Lois
 Gallego
 Garamendi
 Garcia (IL)
 Garcia (TX)
 Golden
 Gomez
 Gonzalez,
 Vicente
 Gottheimer
 Green, Al (TX)
 Grijalva
 Harder (CA)
 Hayes
 Higgins (NY)
 Himes
 Horsford
 Houlihan
 Hoyer
 Huffman
 Jackson Lee
 Jacobs (CA)
 Jayapal
 Jeffries
 Johnson (GA)
 Johnson (TX)
 Jones
 Kaptur
 Keating
 Kelly (IL)
 Khanna
 Kildee
 Kilmer
 Kim (NJ)
 Kind
 Kirkpatrick
 Krishnamoorthi
 Kuster
 Lamb
 Langevin
 Larsen (WA)
 Larson (CT)
 Lawrence
 Lawson (FL)
 Lee (CA)
 Lee (NV)
 Leger Fernandez
 Levin (CA)
 Levin (MI)
 Lieu
 Lofgren
 Lowenthal
 Luria
 Lynch
 Malinowski
 Maloney,
 Carolyn B.
 Maloney, Sean
 Manning
 Matsui
 McBath
 McCollum
 McEachin
 McGovern
 McNeerney
 Meeks
 Meng
 Mfume
 Moore (WI)
 Morelle
 Moulton
 Mrvan
 Murphy (FL)
 Nadler
 Napolitano
 Neal
 Neguse
 Newman
 Norcross
 O'Halleran
 Ocasio-Cortez
 Omar
 Pallone
 Panetta
 Pappas
 Pascrell
 Payne
 Perlmutter
 Peters
 Phillips
 Pingree
 Pocan
 Porter
 Pressley
 Price (NC)
 Quigley
 Raskin
 Rice (NY)
 Ross
 Roybal-Allard
 Ruiz
 Ruppersberger
 Sires
 Slotkin
 Smith (WA)
 Soto
 Spanberger
 Speier
 Stansbury
 Stanton
 Stevens
 Strickland
 Suozzi
 Swailwell
 Takano
 Thompson (CA)
 Thompson (MS)
 Titus
 Tlaib
 Tonko
 Torres (NY)
 Trahan
 Trone
 Underwood
 Vargas
 Veasey
 Vela
 Velázquez
 Wasserman
 Schultz
 Waters
 Watson Coleman
 Welch
 Wexton
 Wild
 Williams (GA)
 Wilson (FL)
 Yarmuth

NAYS—202

Aderholt
 Allen
 Amodei
 Armstrong
 Arrington
 Babin
 Bacon
 Baird
 Balderson
 Banks
 Barr
 Bentz
 Bergman
 Bice (OK)
 Biggs
 Bilirakis
 Bishop (NC)
 Boebert
 Bost
 Brady
 Buchanan
 Buck
 Bucshon
 Budd
 Burchett
 Burgess
 Calvert
 Cammack
 Carey
 Carl
 Carter (GA)
 Carter (TX)
 Cawthorn
 Chabot
 Cheney
 Cline
 Cloud
 Clyde
 Cole
 Comer
 Crawford
 Crenshaw
 Curtis
 Davidson
 Davis, Rodney
 DesJarlais
 Diaz-Balart
 Donalds

Duncan Johnson (LA) Pfluger
 Dunn Johnson (OH) Posey
 Ellzey Johnson (SD) Reed
 Emmer Jordan Reschenthaler
 Estes Joyce (OH) Rice (SC)
 Fallon Joyce (PA) Rodgers (WA)
 Feenstra Katko Rogers (AL)
 Ferguson Keller Rogers (KY)
 Fischbach Kelly (MS) Rose
 Fitzgerald Kelly (PA) Rosendale
 Fitzpatrick Kim (CA) Rouzer
 Fleischmann Kustoff Roy
 Fortenberry LaHood Rutherford
 Foxx Lamborn Scalise
 Franklin, C. Latta Schweikert
 Scott LaTurner Scott, Austin
 Fulcher Lesko Sessions
 Gaetz Letlow Simpson
 Gallagher Long Smith (MO)
 Garbarino Loudermilk Smith (NE)
 Garcia (CA) Lucas Smith (NJ)
 Gibbs Luetkemeyer Smucker
 Gimenez Mace Spartz
 Gohmert Malliotakis Stauber
 Gonzales, Tony Mann Steel
 Good (VA) Mast Stefanik
 Gooden (TX) McCarthy Steil
 Gosar McCaul Steube
 Granger McClain Stewart
 Graves (LA) McClintock Taylor
 Graves (MO) McHenry Tenney
 Greene (GA) McKinley Thompson (PA)
 Griffith Meijer Tiffany
 Grothman Meuser Timmons
 Guest Miller (IL) Upton
 Guthrie Miller (WV) Valadao
 Hagedorn Miller-Meeks Van Drew
 Harris Moolenaar Van Dуйne
 Harshbarger Mooney Wagner
 Hern Moore (AL) Walberg
 Herrell Moore (UT) Walorski
 Herrera Beutler Mullin Waltz
 Hice (GA) Murphy (NC) Weber (TX)
 Higgins (LA) Nehls Webster (FL)
 Hill Newhouse Wenstrup
 Hinson Nunes Westerman
 Hollingsworth Obernolte Williams (TX)
 Hudson Owens Wilson (SC)
 Huizenga Palazzo Womack
 Issa Palmer Young
 Jackson Pence Zeldin
 Jacobs (NY) Perry

NOT VOTING—14

Brooks Kahele Salazar
 Eshoo Kinzinger Torres (CA)
 Gonzalez (OH) LaMalfa Turner
 Green (TN) Massie Wittman
 Hartzler Norman

□ 1516

Messrs. JOHNSON of Ohio, GARCIA of California, and GOODEN of Texas changed their vote from “yea” to “nay.”

Messrs. NEGUSE, KRISHNAMOORTHY, Ms. LEE of California, JOHNSON of Texas, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. CONNOLLY, and Mrs. LEE of Nevada changed their vote from “nay” to “yea.”

So the motion to table was agreed to. The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Stated for:

Ms. ESHOO. Madam Speaker, I was unable to be present during roll call vote number 397. I would like the record to reflect how I would have voted:

On rollcall vote number 397, I would have voted “yes.”

MEMBERS RECORDED PURSUANT TO HOUSE RESOLUTION 8, 117TH CONGRESS

Adams (Brown) Frankel, Lois Hagedorn
 (MD) (Kuster) (Moolenaar)
 Cárdenas (Soto) Fulcher (Johnson) Kildee (Ryan)
 Crist (OH) Lawrence
 (Wasserman) Garcia (TX) (Johnson)
 Schultz (Jeffries) (GA)
 Curtis (Meijer) Green (TX) Lawson (FL)
 DeFazio (Cuellar) (Evans)
 (Carbajal) Lesko (Miller)

Meng (Kuster) Reed (Kelly)
 Moore (UT) (PA)
 (Owens) Reschenthaler
 Palazzo (Meuser)
 (Fleischmann) Ruiz (Aguilar)
 Payne (Pallone) Rush (Quigley)
 Porter (Wexton) Sires (Pallone)
 Posey Stewart (Owens)
 (Cammack) Swailwell
 (Gomez)

Takano (Chu) Tiffany
 (Arrington) Underwood
 (Casten) Vela (Gomez)
 Watson Coleman (Pallone)
 Wilson (FL) (Hayes)

FURTHER EXTENDING GOVERNMENT FUNDING ACT

Ms. DeLAURO. Madam Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 829, I call up the bill (H.R. 6119) making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2022, and for other purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 829, the bill is considered read.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6119

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Further Extending Government Funding Act”.

SEC. 2. TABLE OF CONTENTS.

The table of contents of this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short Title.
 Sec. 2. Table of Contents.
 Sec. 3. References.

DIVISION A—FURTHER CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2022

DIVISION B—ADDITIONAL AFGHANISTAN SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2022

DIVISION C—EXTENSIONS

Title I—Extensions
 Title II—Budgetary Effects

SEC. 3. REFERENCES.

Except as expressly provided otherwise, any reference to “this Act” contained in any division of this Act shall be treated as referring only to the provisions of that division.

DIVISION A—FURTHER CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2022

SEC. 101. The Continuing Appropriations Act, 2022 (division A of Public Law 117-43) is amended—

(1) by striking the date specified in section 106(3) and inserting “February 18, 2022”;

(2) in section 118, by striking “first quarter” and inserting “first and second quarters”;

(3) in section 137, by striking “\$22,080,000” and inserting “\$44,838,000” and by striking “\$2,261,000” and inserting “\$4,547,000”; and

(4) by adding after section 157 the following new sections:

“SEC. 158. Section 9(i)(2) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2018(i)(2)) shall be applied by substituting the date specified in section 106(3) of this Act for ‘December 31, 2021’.

“SEC. 159. Section 533 of title V of division B of Public Law 116-260 is repealed.

“SEC. 160. (a) Notwithstanding section 101, section 748 of title VII of division E of Public Law 116-260 shall be applied during the period covered by this Act by—

“(1) substituting ‘2023’ for ‘2022’;

“(2) substituting ‘2022’ for ‘2021’ each place it appears;

“(3) substituting ‘2021’ for ‘2020’ each place it appears; and

“(4) substituting ‘section 748 of division E of Public Law 116-260, as in effect on Sep-

tember 30, 2021’ for ‘section 749 of division C of Public Law 116-93’ each place it appears.

“(b) Subsection (a) shall not take effect until the first day of the first applicable pay period beginning on or after January 1, 2022.

“SEC. 161. Section 302 of the Universal Service Antideficiency Temporary Suspension Act shall be applied by substituting the date specified in section 106(3) of this Act for ‘December 31, 2021’ each place it appears.

“SEC. 162. In addition to amounts otherwise provided by this Act, there is appropriated \$1,600,000,000, for an additional amount for fiscal year 2022, to remain available until September 30, 2024, for the account specified and for the activities specified, in section 141 of this Act.

“SEC. 163. During the period covered by this Act, section 506(a)(1) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2318) shall be applied by substituting ‘\$200,000,000’ for ‘\$100,000,000’.

This division may be cited as the “Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2022”.

DIVISION B—ADDITIONAL AFGHANISTAN SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2022

The following sums are appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2022, and for other purposes, namely:

TITLE I

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

MILITARY PERSONNEL

MILITARY PERSONNEL, ARMY

For an additional amount for “Military Personnel, Army”, \$128,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2022, for support of Operation Allies Welcome by the Department of Defense.

MILITARY PERSONNEL, NAVY

For an additional amount for “Military Personnel, Navy”, \$7,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2022, for support of Operation Allies Welcome by the Department of Defense.

MILITARY PERSONNEL, MARINE CORPS

For an additional amount for “Military Personnel, Marine Corps”, \$32,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2022, for support of Operation Allies Welcome by the Department of Defense.

MILITARY PERSONNEL, AIR FORCE

For an additional amount for “Military Personnel, Air Force”, \$145,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2022, for support of Operation Allies Welcome by the Department of Defense.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

OVERSEAS HUMANITARIAN, DISASTER, AND CIVIC AID

For an additional amount for “Overseas Humanitarian, Disaster, and Civic Aid”, \$4,000,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2023, for support of Operation Allies Welcome by the Department of Defense.

GENERAL PROVISIONS—THIS TITLE

SEC. 1101. Not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of this Act, and every 30 days thereafter through fiscal year 2022, the Secretary of Defense shall provide a written report to the congressional defense committees describing the execution of funds provided in this title, including the amounts obligated and expended, in total and since the previous report; the nature of the costs incurred or services provided by such funds; and any reimbursements or funds transferred by another Federal agency to the Department of Defense which relates to the purpose of the funds provided by this title.

SEC. 1102. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, funds provided by this title

shall only be for the purposes specified, and shall not be subject to any transfer authority provided by law.

TITLE II

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY DEPARTMENTAL MANAGEMENT, OPERATIONS, INTELLIGENCE, AND OVERSIGHT

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY AND EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT OPERATIONS AND SUPPORT

For an additional amount for “Operations and Support”, \$147,456,000, to remain available until September 30, 2022, for necessary expenses in support of Operation Allies Welcome, including the provision of staffing and support services for Safe Havens: *Provided*, That amounts provided under this heading in this Act may be transferred by the Secretary of Homeland Security to other appropriations in the Department of Homeland Security only for necessary expenses of Operation Allies Welcome and not for any other purpose: *Provided further*, That amounts made available under this heading in this Act shall be available in addition to any other appropriations available for the same purpose, including appropriations available pursuant to the authority of section 506(a)(2) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961: *Provided further*, That, beginning not later than January 31, 2022, the Office of the Secretary shall report monthly to the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and the House of Representatives on the use of transfer authority provided under this heading in this Act.

TITLE III

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION

CDC-WIDE ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAM SUPPORT

For an additional amount for “CDC-Wide Activities and Program Support”, \$8,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2022, for support of Operation Allies Welcome for medical support, screening, and other related public health activities related to Afghan arrivals and refugees.

ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES REFUGEE AND ENTRANT ASSISTANCE

For an additional amount for “Refugee and Entrant Assistance”, \$1,263,728,000, to remain available until September 30, 2023, for support of Operation Allies Welcome for carrying out refugee and entrant assistance activities in support of citizens or nationals of Afghanistan paroled into the United States under section 212(d)(5) of the Immigration and Nationality Act and citizens or nationals of Afghanistan for whom such refugee and entrant assistance activities are authorized: *Provided*, That amounts made available under this heading in this Act may be used for grants or contracts with qualified non-profit organizations to provide culturally and linguistically appropriate services, including wrap-around services during temporary housing and after resettlement, housing assistance, medical assistance, legal assistance, education services, and case management assistance: *Provided further*, That the Director of the Office of Refugee Resettlement, in carrying out section 412(c)(1)(A) of the Immigration and Nationality Act with amounts made available under this heading in this Act, may allocate such amounts among the States in a manner that accounts for the most current data available.

TITLE IV

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

ADMINISTRATION OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS DIPLOMATIC PROGRAMS

For an additional amount for “Diplomatic Programs”, \$44,300,000, to remain available

until expended, for support for Operation Allies Welcome and related efforts by the Department of State, including additional relocations of individuals at risk as a result of the situation in Afghanistan and related expenses, and to reimburse the account under this heading in prior Acts making appropriations for the Department of State, foreign operations, and related programs for obligations previously incurred.

EMERGENCIES IN THE DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR SERVICE

For an additional amount for “Emergencies in the Diplomatic and Consular Service”, \$36,000,000, to remain available until expended, for support for Operation Allies Welcome and related efforts by the Department of State, including additional relocations of individuals at risk as a result of the situation in Afghanistan and related expenses, and to reimburse the account under this heading in prior Acts making appropriations for the Department of State, foreign operations, and related programs for obligations previously incurred.

BILATERAL ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE DEPARTMENT OF STATE

UNITED STATES EMERGENCY REFUGEE AND MIGRATION ASSISTANCE FUND

For an additional amount for “United States Emergency Refugee and Migration Assistance Fund”, \$1,200,000,000, to remain available until expended, notwithstanding section 2(c)(2) of the Migration and Refugee Assistance Act of 1962 (22 U.S.C. 2601(c)(2)), for support for Operation Allies Welcome and related efforts by the Department of State, including additional relocations of individuals at risk as a result of the situation in Afghanistan and related expenses.

GENERAL PROVISION—THIS TITLE

SEC. 1401. The Secretary of State shall include in the reports required by section 2402 of title IV of the Afghanistan Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2022 (division C of Public Law 117-43) the proposed uses of funds appropriated under this title.

TITLE V

GENERAL PROVISIONS—THIS ACT

SEC. 1501. Each amount appropriated or made available by this Act is in addition to amounts otherwise appropriated for the fiscal year involved.

SEC. 1502. No part of any appropriation contained in this Act shall remain available for obligation beyond the current fiscal year unless expressly so provided herein.

SEC. 1503. Unless otherwise provided for by this Act, the additional amounts appropriated by this Act to appropriations accounts shall be available under the authorities and conditions applicable to such appropriations accounts for fiscal year 2022.

SEC. 1504. Each amount provided by this division is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 4001(a)(1) and section 4001(b) of S. Con. Res. 14 (117th Congress), the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2022.

SEC. 1505. Not later than January 15, 2022, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall provide to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate a written report on Operation Allies Welcome: *Provided*, That such report shall describe the strategy and transition plan leading to the conclusion of Operation Allies Welcome; a plan, including timeline, for relocating all Afghans currently residing at Department of Defense facilities to longer-term housing; the activities and responsibilities assigned to each Federal agency involved in such strategy and transition plan; and an estimate of the costs from each such agency for carrying out such strategy and transition plan.

This division may be cited as the “Additional Afghanistan Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2022”.

DIVISION C—EXTENSIONS

TITLE I—EXTENSIONS

SEC. 2101. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY TO MAKE CERTAIN APPOINTMENTS FOR NATIONAL DISASTER MEDICAL SYSTEM.

Section 2812(c)(4)(B) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300hh-1(c)(4)(B)) is amended by striking “December 3, 2021” and inserting “February 18, 2022”.

SEC. 2102. EXTENSION OF ADDITIONAL SPECIAL ASSESSMENT.

Section 3014(a) of title 18, United States Code, is amended by striking “December 31, 2021” and inserting “February 18, 2022”.

SEC. 2103. EXTENSION OF TEMPORARY ORDER FOR FENTANYL-RELATED SUBSTANCES.

Effective as if included in the enactment of the Temporary Reauthorization and Study of the Emergency Scheduling of Fentanyl Analogues Act (Public Law 116-114), section 2 of such Act (as amended by Public Law 117-43) is amended by striking “January 28, 2022” and inserting “February 18, 2022”.

SEC. 2104. EXTENDING INCREASED FMFP FOR CERTAIN TERRITORIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1905(ff)(3) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396d(ff)(3)) is amended by striking “December 3, 2021” and inserting “February 18, 2022”.

(b) REDUCTION OF MEDICARE IMPROVEMENT FUND.—Section 1898(b)(1) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395iii(b)(1)) is amended by striking “\$69,000,000” and inserting “\$56,000,000”.

TITLE II—BUDGETARY EFFECTS

SEC. 2201. BUDGETARY EFFECTS.

(a) STATUTORY PAYGO SCORECARDS.—The budgetary effects of this division shall not be entered on either PAYGO scorecard maintained pursuant to section 4(d) of the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010.

(b) SENATE PAYGO SCORECARDS.—The budgetary effects of this division shall not be entered on any PAYGO scorecard maintained for purposes of section 4106 of H. Con. Res. 71 (115th Congress).

(c) CLASSIFICATION OF BUDGETARY EFFECTS.—Notwithstanding Rule 3 of the Budget Scorekeeping Guidelines set forth in the joint explanatory statement of the committee of conference accompanying Conference Report 105-217 and section 250(c)(8) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, the budgetary effects of this division shall not be estimated—

(1) for purposes of section 251 of such Act;

(2) for purposes of an allocation to the Committee on Appropriations pursuant to section 302(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974; and

(3) for purposes of paragraph (4)(C) of section 3 of the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010 as being included in an appropriation Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The bill shall be debatable for 1 hour, equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations or their respective designees.

The gentlewoman from Connecticut (Ms. DELAURO) and the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. GRANGER) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Connecticut.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise

and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the measure under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Connecticut?

There was no objection.

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, before I go any further, I would first like to take a moment to mourn the loss of Congresswoman Carrie Meek. She was an extraordinary force in the Congress and a pioneer who was never deterred by any challenge that came her way. I like to say that though she was unassuming and soft-spoken, she carried a big stick. That is evident in her enduring legacy today. I had the honor of serving together with Congresswoman Meek on the Appropriations Committee years ago, and I feel immensely privileged to have worked with her to help expand opportunity for all Americans. We all mourn her loss.

Madam Speaker, I will be frank. Instead of being here today discussing another continuing resolution, I wish that we were here to present a bipartisan, bicameral appropriations agreement. Continuing resolutions are not the way to govern. They are a short-term patch that leaves the American people behind. But we are here today because my colleagues across the aisle have refused time and time again to begin negotiations or even offer a proposal of their own for government funding that delivers for the American people.

House and Senate Democrats have put forward their proposals, but Republicans have not presented an offer of their own. There is not one piece of paper describing what Republicans want. It has been 30 days since I brought together a bipartisan, bicameral four-corners meeting on November 2, and to date we have not heard one word from them—not one word.

But now my Republican counterparts want more time—something that they have had since we came to this floor to pass the last funding extension 62 days ago, which means we now have no choice but to pursue a short-term extension. Make no mistake, Madam Speaker, a vote against this continuing resolution is a vote to shut the government down.

The legislation before us, the Further Extending Government Funding Act, continues government funding at current levels through February 18. It makes minimal changes to address the most urgent of needs during the period of the continuing resolution and provides \$7 billion to continue supporting Afghanistan evacuees after the end of 20 years of war.

While I wish the February 18 end date were earlier—and I pursued earlier dates—I believe this agreement allows the appropriations process to move forward toward a final funding agreement

that addresses the needs of the American people.

Let me be clear, working families, small businesses, veterans, and our military need the certainty that comes with passing omnibus funding legislation instead of short-term funding patches. Republicans must join us for bipartisan, bicameral negotiations to resolve our differences and keep government working for us all.

For our communities, we need an omnibus to create and sustain good-paying jobs, support small businesses, prevent future pandemics, and advance lifesaving medical research. We need an omnibus to strengthen public schools, protect our air and water, combat the opioid epidemic, and support core services such as food safety and consumer product inspections. Without an omnibus, investments in all these areas will be denied.

For our veterans, we need an omnibus to provide sufficient funding for veterans' benefits, reduce backlogs for veterans and their families, and meet the needs of the VA's healthcare system. Without an omnibus there will be a shortfall that will cause veterans not to receive their benefits in full.

For our national security, we need an omnibus to support defense readiness and modernization, secure our cyber infrastructure, and strengthen American leadership abroad. Without an omnibus, a pay raise for troops will not be funded while funds will be misdirected to a war we are no longer fighting.

As I said before, I wanted to be here today passing a bipartisan, bicameral appropriations agreement. Sadly, we are not. But as Republicans take the next 2½ months, Democrats remain ready, willing, and able to move this process forward. We are ready to go, but we need willing partners to put the American people first.

With a new deadline of February 18, it is long past time for our Republican colleagues to offer constructive proposals to address the critical issues facing the country by funding the Federal Government's important work. As the American people put their faith and trust in us, they deserve no less.

Madam Speaker, I urge a "yes" vote on this legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. GRANGER. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, today I rise to speak on H.R. 6119, a short-term continuing resolution through February 18. I must admit that I am disappointed to be on the floor of the House today to speak about a continuing resolution rather than full-year appropriations bills. But earlier this year, my colleagues on the other side of the aisle crafted fiscal year 2022 bills with little input from Republicans, and we have not been able to find a path forward.

During markups this summer, our Members made it clear we would not support partisan bills that include irresponsible spending increases and ex-

treme policies. Unfortunately, that is exactly where we find ourselves.

The House and Senate bills were drafted to top-line spending levels that do not reflect a bipartisan consensus. The majority party also focused funding on their own priorities with non-defense spending increasing at a much higher rate than defense spending. And last, but certainly not least, the policies in the bills are the most extreme that I have seen since I became a member of the Appropriations Committee.

During 2019 and 2020, there were also strong differences of opinions, but we had an agreement in place that allowed us to negotiate final bills quickly. The terms were rather simple. The party leaders and the White House reached early agreement on the spending framework. Everyone agreed to drop controversial language and restore longstanding provisions unless all sides agreed to changes. I am concerned that we cannot have meaningful discussions on full-year appropriations without a similar understanding before we start.

I wish we would have focused on funding the essential elements of government long before now. Instead, too much time has been spent focusing on extremely partisan and costly bills being sent to the President's desk, and there could be another bill on the way before the end of the year.

It is unrealistic for Republicans to negotiate on appropriations bills while this massive reconciliation package is still under discussion. Our constituents are demanding that we take a comprehensive look at all of the spending this year. With our debt skyrocketing and inflation at the highest levels in 30 years, we cannot afford to think about appropriations bills in isolation. However, I do hope that we can make progress getting our bills finalized once we move into the new year; otherwise, we will be having the same conversation in February about another continuing resolution.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR), who is the chairwoman of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development, and Related Agencies.

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, I thank the chairwoman for yielding.

Madam Speaker, I rise to address this latest short-term budget fix before us. We have a bipartisan responsibility to pass a full-year appropriations package. Democrats have worked in good faith to find common ground that will allow us to meet our national obligations to the American people and deliver essential services that they expect.

Unfortunately, Republicans have decided that engaging in partisan politics and throwing up needless speed bumps in delays and roadblocks is more important than doing their job.

The people harmed most by this obstruction are the hardworking families,

seniors, and veterans I represent. In fact, our Great Lakes region deserves so much better, and Americans deserve better. Let's govern our Nation. No more stalls.

Our bipartisan Energy and Water Development, and Related Agencies Subcommittee worked diligently to craft a forward-thinking bill. It invests new resources to meet America's needs and create good jobs in clean energy and water technologies allowing us to secure our Nation's energy independence, create good-paying jobs, and confront the climate crisis that is impacting every coast in every region and, frankly, continent.

A full-year bill will ensure our water resource agencies are able to meet the needs of the American people and solidify our waterway and port infrastructure driving our economy forward, meeting the backlogs that are there, and creating good jobs from coast to coast.

The people's business must be conducted, and for the sake of our Nation, Republicans should work in a constructive manner, not destructive.

We look forward to passing these bills and investing in the American people. For now, I urge my colleagues to support this bridge to the future and move our Nation forward again.

□ 1530

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume. I rise in reluctant opposition to the continuing resolution.

But first, I want to recognize our good friend, Carrie Meek, from Florida. I share the gentlewoman's sadness over her passing. She was a good friend. She was a great Member, and we will miss her, and I extend my condolences to her family.

For months, my friends on the other side of the aisle spent their time crafting their big tax and spend social welfare bill. In the end, they passed a bill that will most likely fail in the Senate because it represents the most radical change to the American social contract in history, creating generations of dependency on the backs of the American middle class. While they went back and forth, going further left with each version, the clock on funding our government ran out.

The most basic responsibility of this Congress is to fund the government, to ensure seniors and veterans receive their earned benefits on time. Yet, the majority pushed aside that basic duty in the name of radical social change. The CR before us represents their failure to govern.

As the ranking Republican on the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee, our committee has heard firsthand about the threats that face our country and our allies.

Right now, at this very moment, the Russians have amassed forces along the Ukrainian border, weeks after they purposely demonstrated their ability to destroy a satellite in high orbit. It is unbelievable.

A record number of Chinese military airplanes have flown that Taiwan airspace, and their naval forces continue to threaten freedom of navigation in the South China Sea.

President Biden's abject failure in Afghanistan, which freed an estimated 7,000 hardened terrorists, has created more uncertainty for both us and our allies. And threats such as North Korea, Iran, and other nonstate actors remain as well.

We cannot continue to cripple our national security apparatus with CRs year after year. It is not only wasteful—this CR is going to cost the Department of Defense about \$1.7 billion per month for nothing—but it allows our adversaries to continue gaining while we remain stagnant.

Now more than ever, we must give them the funding and tools they need to counter threats to the United States.

It is time that the majority focus on their most basic task: Do the work the American people expect of our government.

Our U.S. servicemembers, veterans, seniors, and the most vulnerable among us deserve better. I urge my colleagues to vote "no," and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Speaker, once again, the Republicans refuse to come to the table to negotiate, thereby jeopardizing benefits for our veterans and our national security. We can move if they come to the table.

I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. PRICE), the chairman of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies.

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of this continuing resolution. But I want to make clear: This is a stopgap measure, necessitated by Republican refusal to work with Democrats on a bicameral, bipartisan basis to find a path forward for the balance of the fiscal year.

Specifically, I can attest to the need for a full-year transportation T-HUD bill to update our aging transportation infrastructure, to remedy inequities in housing and transportation, prevent evictions, and make our infrastructure more resilient to natural disasters and climate change.

We need to fortify safety as the primary function of the Federal Aviation Administration, providing full-year funding to strengthen certification activities, modernize air traffic control, and hire highly qualified personnel.

We need to fully renew all Section 8 and other housing vouchers for nearly 5 million low-income and working families to ensure that they can remain stably housed. We also need to keep pace with the cost of upgrading our Nation's public housing, which houses more than 2 million low-income residents.

We also spent months vetting over 1,000 Community Project Funding re-

quests in a bipartisan manner for well-designed housing, transportation, and economic development projects that produce direct community benefits throughout the country. Without completing the annual appropriations process, none of these investments will be possible.

Madam Speaker, I urge adoption of this CR today but I also urge my Republican colleagues to meet Congress' most basic constitutional responsibility of funding our government and directing investments for the future by coming to the table. Come to the table. Let's find a constructive path forward.

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ROY).

Mr. ROY. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

There is a lot of noise in this town right now about government shutdowns, and the fact is, the issue isn't about shutdowns. It is about whether or not Members of this body will continue to use money we don't have to fund mandates, indoctrination, and the use of force against our citizens:

\$73.5 billion for the Department of Education that subsidizes the indoctrination of our children with critical race theory and woke gender ideologies;

\$10 billion for an FBI that was just used by the Attorney General of the United States to target parents;

\$50 billion for a Department of Homeland Security that leaves our borders wide open, empowering cartels because Secretary Mayorkas fails to execute the laws of the United States;

\$6 billion for the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases run by Dr. Fauci.

Need I say more?

\$592 million for OSHA, which has imposed an unconstitutional vaccine mandate on 84 million Americans.

I offered an amendment to strip any funding from this bill that would fund Federal vaccine mandates, and it wasn't even able to see the light of day.

This is about a Congress that is supposed to use the power of the purse, our Article I authority, rather than hiding behind the judges in Article III, to check the executive branch. We have a moral obligation to give voice and representation to the people who elected us whose liberty and livelihoods are being attacked.

My friend who battles MS is looking at being terminated from the university she teaches at because of the unlawful Federal contractor mandate.

The medical hero in Texas who is 9 months pregnant is facing termination under the unlawful CMS mandate.

Military personnel, including the 13-year Army veteran in my district who is concerned about myocarditis, are facing being discharged from service to our country.

These are our neighbors, our relatives, our friends—maybe not for some of you who go home to double-masked, vaccine passport cities. But

these are real Americans that this government wants to go after.

I urge my colleagues to stop empowering executive branch tyranny over Americans, and I urge my Republican colleagues to not just vote “no” and give a speech, but go stand with MIKE LEE. Go stand with others in the Senate trying to defend these Americans. We should not fund tyranny over American citizens.

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Speaker, antiscience fearmongering about vaccines is wrong. Fears about government requirements for vaccines are flat-out silly. And the Republicans are prepared to shut down the government based on this. Incredible.

I yield 1½ minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD), the chair of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Homeland Security.

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Madam Speaker, each year, the first and most important responsibility Congress has is to determine how taxpayer dollars will be spent on behalf of our constituents. The continuing resolution before the House will prevent a government shutdown and give us sufficient time to complete the full-year funding bills if the minority will finally come to the negotiating table.

Some friends on the other side of the aisle have suggested simply enacting a yearlong CR, which would effectively wash our hands of our constitutional duty. My subcommittee is responsible for drafting the funding bill for the Department of Homeland Security. If, as my Republican colleagues have suggested, we were to pass a full-year CR, DHS would lose critical increases in the House bill that are imperative to the security of the United States. This includes a historic 20 percent increase for the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency; funding to increase FEMA’s capacity to respond to the growing frequency of disasters linked to climate change; a quadrupling of funding for trade facilitation and security at our ports of entry; a 6 percent increase for Homeland Security Investigations; and an 8 percent increase for critical Coast Guard operations.

Let’s quickly approve this short-term CR and then roll up our sleeves and work together to fulfill our constitutional duty by negotiating full-year bills.

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. BISHOP), the chairman of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding.

This year, House Democrats worked hard and passed government funding bills which support vital programs that

create jobs, grow our economy, and ensure our national security.

As chairman of the House Appropriations Committee’s Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies, I want to stress that the programs in our bill touch the lives of every single American every day.

It would ensure that USDA can continue to feed America and the world, to help expand economic opportunity, to create jobs in rural areas, and to fully meet the demand for farm ownership loans.

It would increase funding to address the opioid crisis and rare cancers and resume unannounced, in-person inspections in the two largest foreign drug manufacturing countries in the world, China and India.

Simply put, it would provide resources to ensure that we have the most abundant, wholesome, and safest food and medicine in the world.

It will help families that may struggle to put food on the table through programs like SNAP and WIC.

Sadly, the bill cannot move forward because, in the past few months, House and Senate Republicans have refused to negotiate with Democrats on government funding.

Today, we are passing this short-term bill just to keep the government open. In doing so, Democrats are making sure our government continues serving the American people. We are also offering another chance for our Republican colleagues to come to the table with constructive proposals.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill and, more importantly, to come together with us to provide peace of mind and certainty to our fellow Americans by passing a full fiscal year ’22 funding bill package.

Madam Speaker, I include in the RECORD letters in support of the bill from the Aerospace Industries Association, the Coalition on Human Needs, the Coalition for Health Funding, and the National Defense Industrial Association.

AEROSPACE INDUSTRIES ASSOCIATION,
Arlington, VA, November 2, 2021.

Hon. CHUCK SCHUMER,
Majority Leader, U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.

Hon. MITCH MCCONNELL,
Minority Leader, U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

Hon. KEVIN MCCARTHY,
Minority Leader, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MAJORITY LEADER SCHUMER, SPEAKER PELOSI, RANKING MEMBER MCCONNELL, AND RANKING MEMBER MCCARTHY: The United States aerospace and defense industries are an essential partner with the federal government in an array of efforts vital to our economy and our national security. Each fall, that partnership is tested when those programs are slowed down or deferred by the use of multiple continuing resolutions (CR) to keep the government running. On behalf of our vital industries and our more than two million employees, the Aerospace Industries

Association (AIA) strongly urges you to reach a near-term agreement on fiscal year 2022 funding to avoid further CRs beyond December 3, 2021.

Government watchdogs continue to document the waste and unnecessary disruption that CRs cause to federal programs. Multiple agencies advised the Government Accountability Office (GAO) in a 2021 report that longer CRs “contributed to distortions in agencies’ spending, adding to the rush to obligate funds late in the year before they expire.” The GAO determined that contracting officers working under a CR must continuously align the period of performance under their contracts to the specific timeframe of a given CR, resulting in many unnecessary contract modifications during the year. Hiring of new civilian staff is also delayed, making it harder for agencies to meet their goals. The GAO notes that agencies apply creative workarounds in the first quarter of each fiscal year, because they assume that appropriations bills will not be in place by the beginning of the fiscal year. However, these effects become far more serious, and agency staff have fewer options, when CRs continue into the second quarter and beyond.

The Department of Defense (DOD) is uniquely harmed under CRs because these bills typically prohibit DOD from starting new programs or activities or increasing any program’s production rate beyond that of the current fiscal year. Both ‘new starts’ and rate increases are critical for our national defense because our defense posture and threats are always evolving. As CRs extend to longer periods during the year, this is an increasing problem for which DOD seldom gets relief. DOD reported to the GAO that between FY10 and FY20, they had requested exceptions to CR language (called “anomalies”) 1,258 times and had only been granted three percent of those requests. Most of these requested relief from the prohibition on new starts and rate increases. We strongly believe that, should Congress produce CRs extending into the second quarter of FY22, it should eliminate the prohibition on new starts and production rate increases.

FY22 is the first year in a decade when discretionary spending levels have not been fixed in statute by the Budget Control Act. AIA has long argued that statutory caps are not needed because Congress and the administration are able to assess and address the needs of the nation more effectively, and with greater oversight, through the annual appropriations process. Last year, Congress enacted all 12 full-year appropriations bills by December 27. If Congress fails to once again enact full-year appropriations bills, or continues running the government into 2022 under continuing resolutions, it will send the wrong signal to the government’s partners, like those in our industry. We count on stable, reliable and adequate funding to support the critical capabilities that we provide for all Americans.

Like other industries, COVID-19 took a serious toll on our workforce and the thousands of small- and medium-sized businesses along the supply chain that are at the heart of the aerospace and defense industries. More than ever, businesses across all industries need predictability and consistency.

We again ask that you ensure that all government programs receive full Fiscal Year 2022 funding on or before December 3, 2021.

Sincerely,

ERIC FANNING,
President and CEO,
Aerospace Industries Association.

COALITION ON HUMAN NEEDS,
Washington, DC, November 15, 2021.

Hon. ROSA DELAURO,
Chairwoman, House Committee on Appropriations, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRWOMAN DELAURO: On behalf of the Coalition on Human Needs, I am writing to strongly urge you to do everything in your power to enact omnibus FY 2022 appropriations legislation including all 12 subcommittee bills. Our nation badly needs the increased funding provided in the House Appropriations Committee bills. We face many increased needs, a great many exacerbated by the pandemic and its economic dislocations. For more than a decade, funding levels for vital human needs programs have shrunk, especially taking inflation into account. If Congress fails to enact omnibus appropriations legislation and instead defaults to a long-term continuing resolution (CR) with flat funding, we will seriously damage our capacity to respond to the multiple public health and economic crises we face. As a member of the House Committee on Appropriations, you have a key role to play in working for enactment of an omnibus, not a long-term CR.

Members of the Coalition on Human Needs, including human service provider organizations, faith groups, labor, civil rights, policy experts and other advocates concerned with meeting the needs of people with low incomes, enthusiastically welcomed the funding levels provided in the Biden FY 2022 budget and the House and Senate Appropriations Committees. We have tracked nearly 200 human needs programs over the past decade. Between FYs 2010 and 2020, we found that two-thirds of these programs, covering health care, housing, nutrition, social services, education, training, and more, had lost ground, taking inflation into account. In the past year, we have begun to rebuild. But the needs are also growing.

We now face rising prices affecting necessities including utilities, food, and rent. Flat funding from a prolonged CR would fail our people by not providing needed increases in programs such as the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). The House increases LIHEAP by \$125 million; the Senate bill increases funding by \$175 million. Both these increases are too modest when taking into account that natural gas heating costs are projected to rise by 30 percent this winter and heating oil is expected to rise by 43 percent. Nutrition programs will also need funding increases because of rising food prices. The House has provided \$1.4 billion for Senior Nutrition programs, an increase of \$436 million above the FY 2021 enacted level. Responding to the acute shortage of affordable housing, the House bill would expand rental assistance to 125,000 additional households. These increases are vitally needed. Flat funding in all these areas would be simply unacceptable.

We have for some time faced a substance use crisis, and are projected to reach 100,000 deaths from opioid overdoses by the end of this year, up from about 93,000 in 2020. The House funding level for the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) is \$9.16 billion, \$3 billion more than current year funding. Without those additional funds, we will not be able to cope with the continuing increases in opioid addiction.

The pandemic has increased mental health problems. The proposed SAMHSA funding levels allow us to respond more adequately. In particular, House funding for various children's mental health programs increase by \$118.5 million over current year levels. This is a vital turn-around after years of erosion. From FYs 2010 to 2020, Children's Mental Health Services declined by 14 percent, in-

cluding inflation. We must not return to flat funding when the pandemic has adversely affected the mental health of millions of children and adults.

Over the past decade, we allowed our public health capacity to diminish, and as a consequence we were not ready to cope with COVID-19. The House Labor-HHS-Education appropriations bill increases the Centers for Disease Control about \$2.7 billion over the current year, allowing for the agency to rebuild so that it can more effectively respond to COVID-19 and future health threats.

We know our economy is hampered by a mismatch between jobs available and people with the skills to fill those positions. FY 2022 appropriations proposals include increases in Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act programs (WIOA), YouthBuild, Registered Apprenticeships, and Reintegration of Ex-Offender programs, as well as expansion of community college training programs. These will lead to jobs with higher pay and broadly shared economic growth. These increases are needed to overcome a ten-year 17 percent reduction in WIOA programs and to move us forward.

There are too many important programs to list here. But we do wish to underscore that children have experienced many hardships during the pandemic, including unprecedented losses in education. The historic increases proposed in Title I K-12 education for students with low incomes and in special education funding are urgently needed to help children overcome the educational setbacks they have experienced. Title I spending rises by at least \$16.6 billion over FY 2021, and there will be \$341 more per student for more than 7.6 million students with disabilities. The FY 2022 appropriations bills include many important funding increases to help families care for their children. In addition to the mental health, housing, and education funding already mentioned here, there are badly needed increases in child care, Head Start, early learning programs, and child abuse prevention and treatment programs. There are also urgently needed increases in funds to care for unaccompanied immigrant children.

The nation's recovery depends on strengthening a host of domestic programs that have been allowed to shrink for years, not just to get to where they had been before, but to respond to needs far greater because of the pandemic and its global economic dislocations. A long-term continuing resolution would be a severe failure to address these needs. We strongly urge you to enact omnibus appropriations legislation including all twelve bills as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

DEBORAH WEINSTEIN,
Executive Director.

NOVEMBER 19, 2021.

Hon. ROSA DELAURO,
Chair, Committee on Appropriations,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

Hon. KAY GRANGER,
Ranking Member, Committee on Appropriations,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

Hon. PATRICK LEAHY,
Chairman, Committee on Appropriations,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

Hon. RICHARD SHELBY,
Vice Chairman, Committee on Appropriations,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIR DELAURO, CHAIRMAN LEAHY, RANKING MEMBER GRANGER, AND VICE CHAIRMAN SHELBY: On behalf of the Campaign to Invest in American's Workforce, the Coalition for Health Funding, the Coalition on Human Needs, and the Committee for Education Funding and our members, we urge you to pass the fiscal year (FY) 2022 Labor-HHS-Education appropriations bill as soon

as possible. The bill passed by the House this summer and the bill proposed by the Senate Appropriations Committee this fall provide vital increased funding for the programs and services that have a profound impact on health and well-being, child development, educational and skills attainment, employment, and productivity. Failing to enact the FY 2022 bill and relying on continuing resolutions (CRs) would be a grave missed opportunity to improve the lives of all Americans.

The use of extended CRs creates disruption and dysfunction, and injects fiscal uncertainty into an already uncertain environment for the agencies that support the nation's public health, education, job training, social services, and much more. The reliance on CRs that extend far into the new fiscal year that has become commonplace in recent years limits Congress's ability to exercise its oversight authority and make necessary adjustments to funding levels to meet new demands.

While short-term CRs are challenging enough, the possibility of a year-long CR could be catastrophic as our nation continues to struggle to return to normalcy amidst the COVID-19 pandemic. Below are some examples highlighting the challenges that a year-long continuing resolution poses to critical programs funded by the Labor-HHS-Education appropriations bill:

Last year, the nation's overdose rate increased by a staggering 30 percent with 90,000 deaths nationwide—a rate of increase not seen in three decades and it is now reported that drug overdose deaths reached 100,000 between April 2020 and April 2021, a grim record. In FY 2022, states are slated to receive billions of dollars to assist with prevention, treatment, and recovery services—these dollars will be lost with a full year CR.

CRs make it difficult for state and local health departments, as well as school districts, to plan activities and hire staff as they rely on predictable funding from federal agencies to carry out their work. Funding delays will hold up essential programmatic work in communities across the country.

CRs force grant-funding agencies like the National Institutes of Health to adopt conservative funding policies, holding back on investments in new areas of life-saving research and damaging existing ongoing research efforts. Unreliable and unpredictable funding streams hurt the nation's scientific enterprise, and damage America's competitiveness globally.

After a decade of almost frozen funding for education, the House and Senate Labor-HHS-Education bills provided needed investments for FY 2022, starting to address long-standing needs along the education continuum. Freezing funding at last year's levels would leave funding for the Department of Education below the level of a decade ago in inflation-adjusted dollars.

The pandemic continues to have profound impacts on teaching and learning, and while the COVID-relief already enacted supports short-term costs associated with the pandemic, there will be new, ongoing needs that the FY 2022 appropriations bill begins to address for students, educators, and institutions.

During the pandemic, the costs of child care at a center rose an estimated 47 percent, while family day care increased by 70 percent; many child care centers were forced to close. Lack of child care is keeping many women from rejoining the labor force. The House bill increases child care by \$1.5 billion and Head Start by \$1.4 billion; flat-funding child care would make it impossible to rebuild capacity.

More than 11.8 million people are unemployed or underemployed and women, people of color and people without an education

past high school comprise a disproportionate amount of these workers. A CR would deny additional investments to an already historically underfunded workforce system at a time of great need.

As the Administration works to implement the historic investments to our nation's infrastructure included in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill, the demand for skilled workers in industries including construction, manufacturing, energy and related industries will continue to grow. At the same time, workers who lost their jobs in retail, hospitality and other sectors hardest hit by the pandemic are looking for opportunities to build new skills for available job opportunities. A CR denies critical investments in training programs necessary to mitigate the current skills mismatch and allow workers to access the jobs for which businesses are hiring.

The cost to heat a home with natural gas is projected to rise by 30 percent this winter; heating oil costs are expected to rise by 43 percent. Flat-funding for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program would lead to dramatic reductions in the number of households served and the amount of help they get from LIHEAP.

The undersigned organizations call on Congress to pass a FY 2022 appropriations bill in a timely manner to avoid the damaging trend of long-term CRs and provide needed services for the American public. Thank you for your consideration. If you have questions about this letter, please contact:

Erin Will Morton, Coalition for Health Funding

Sarah Abernathy, Committee for Education Funding

Katie Spiker, Campaign to Invest in America's Workforce or

Deborah Weinstein, Coalition on Human Needs

Sincerely,

ERIN WILL MORTON,
Executive Director,
Coalition for Health
Funding.

KATIE SPIKER,
Managing Director of
Government Affairs,
National Skills Coa-
lition, Campaign to
Invest in America's
Workforce.

SARAH ABERNATHY,
Executive Director,
Committee for Edu-
cation Funding.

DEBORAH WEINSTEIN,
Executive Director,
Coalition on Human
Needs.

NDIA,

Arlington, VA, November 1, 2021.

Hon. PATRICK LEAHY,
Chairman, Appropriations Committee, U.S. Senate.

Hon. ROSA DELAURO,
Chairwoman, Appropriations Committee, House of Representatives.

Hon. RICHARD SHELBY,
Ranking Member, Appropriations Committee, U.S. Senate.

Hon. KAY GRANGER,
Ranking Member, Appropriations Committee, House of Representatives.

DEAR CHAIRMAN LEAHY, CHAIRWOMAN DELAURO AND RANKING MEMBERS SHELBY AND GRANGER: On behalf of the thousands of companies represented by the National Defense Industrial Association (NDIA) and across the defense industrial base, we write to request the expedited completion of the defense appropriation bill. While we applaud the bipartisan effort to pass a continuing resolution

(CR) and avoid a government shutdown, it is a poor stand-in for the full-year appropriations desperately needed by our warfighters and those who provide them with the equipment and services that enable their mission.

We cannot stress enough the importance of the defense appropriations bill to our national security and to a healthy defense industrial base. The limbo caused under CRs wastes precious time and money our nation cannot recover. Delayed new starts and initiatives place a strain on companies and their workforce, particularly as they recalibrate operations to a post-pandemic normal. Our nation's competitors face no similar challenges putting us at a competitive disadvantage, particularly with emerging technologies, and place our supply chains at increasing risk, something we cannot afford after the nearly two years of pandemic impacts.

Doing business with the Federal Government is already hard. The tomes of regulations, burdensome business requirements, sometimes Kafkaesque contracting and oversight procedures, and compressed margins have combined to drive businesses out of the defense sector with a net outflow of well over 10,000 companies since 2011 and, as noted in our annual Vital Signs report, a halving of new entrants to the sector between fiscal 2019 and fiscal 2020 alone. Add to that the uncertainty of "if and when" a full-year defense appropriations gets signed into law, more companies will reassess their participation in the defense industrial base. The ultimate price of this is paid by our warfighters who will lose out on innovations and new capabilities not delivered.

The inefficiencies caused by beginning 12 of the last 13 fiscal years without full-year funding have cost the military services billions lost in inefficient expenditures and program delays. Also, delayed contract starts challenge larger contractors while threaten the existence of smaller prime contractors and small businesses down the supply chain. The effect of that has a human face and a long-term impact. To execute a new-start contract, a company must recruit, hire, and train a workforce despite a tight labor market and a shortage of workers with the required security clearance. Faced with a delayed start, that company must now choose between two bad options, either pay that workforce to stand idle or let those workers go—both of which could lead to contract or business failure and undelivered capabilities to our service members.

With no full-year funding, we cannot afford to go too long without hampering readiness recovery efforts, delaying capabilities to our warfighters, and postponing investments in advanced technologies while allowing our defense industrial base to erode. NOIA supports a bipartisan agreement on domestic and national security spending and encourages the adoption of a two-year budget to prevent another year of budget instability and to provide the needed support to the Department of Defense for their critical missions.

We appreciate your attention to this critical issue and look forward to working with your Committees moving forward.

Very respectfully,

HERBERT J. CARLISLE,
General, USAF (Ret),
President and CEO,
National Defense In-
dustrial Association.

ARNOLD L. PUNARO,
MajGen, USMC (Ret),
Chairman of the
Board, National De-
fense Industrial As-
sociation.

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE), the chairwoman of the Appropriations Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs.

Ms. LEE of California. Madam Speaker, let me first thank our chair, Congresswoman DELAURO, for yielding and for her tremendous leadership throughout this overall process because, I tell you, this continuing resolution, it really should not be necessary.

We have had ample time under the previous CR to complete bicameral, bipartisan negotiations to complete our full-year funding responsibilities, but not all parties have agreed to even come to the table.

But Democrats are determined to keep our government open, so I urge everyone to support this continuing resolution.

There are immense needs, though, and challenges outside our borders. We must complete our work on a full-year appropriations bill that provides the much-needed investments in diplomacy and development to meet those challenges.

For far too long, we have had an imbalance between defense, diplomacy, and development. So I am very proud that the House passed the State-Foreign Operations bill, increasing funding for global health and pandemic response efforts, humanitarian assistance, and our commitment to key allies and partners. We must provide our international agencies the resources they need to defeat the global COVID-19 pandemic and ensure that we are taking the proper steps to protect ourselves in the future.

The House bill also has a tripling of environmental funding from the prior year, which are critical investments to address climate change and accelerate the progress in adaptation of clean energy.

Our bill prioritizes the protection and advancement of women, including for family planning, which has not received an increase in funding in over a decade.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Speaker, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentlewoman from California.

□ 1545

Ms. LEE of California. Madam Speaker, these investments, along with other important investments in housing, jobs, and community investment, are on hold until we complete our work for fiscal year 2022 appropriations bills. So we must not shrink from our global responsibility but instead work to pass our budget, an omnibus bill, as soon as possible. Lives and livelihoods depend on this.

Madam Speaker, again I thank Chairwoman DELAURO for making sure we keep the government open.

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentlewoman from Minnesota (Ms. MCCOLLUM), the chair of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense.

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Madam Speaker, we are here today to prevent the Republicans from shutting down the Federal Government tomorrow.

Republicans in the U.S. Senate are holding the FY 2022 appropriations process hostage by refusing to do any work, let alone negotiate with Democrats.

Rather than doing their job of funding the Federal Government, Senate Republicans want to kick the can down the road, wasting the first 4½ months of the fiscal year.

As chair of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense, it is clear that Republicans are undermining our national security. They are increasing waste and inefficiency, they are weakening our military readiness, and they are sending a signal to our troops and the millions of workers in the defense industry that they are not a priority.

The American people should be sick and tired of hearing Republicans in Congress talk about how we need a stronger national defense while doing everything in their power to weaken our national defense.

This is a time of instability in the world. Russia is knocking on the doorstep of Ukraine. China is at the doorstep of Taiwan. There are serious national security threats in the world.

When our adversaries look at Congress, they see Republicans playing political games rather than investing in research and modernization. What kind of message does that send to our adversaries? What kind of message does that send to the men and women of our military, who we ask to do the toughest jobs while putting their lives on the line?

I am voting for this continuing resolution to prevent a Republican shutdown. But I must say, while this CR is necessary, I find it to be unacceptable as an outcome.

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARRINGTON).

Mr. ARRINGTON. Madam Speaker, these CRs, these fits and starts of prioritizing the Nation's resources and allocating these resources so we can run the people's government, are inefficient at best, they are dysfunctional, it is disgraceful, it is pervasive, and it is a structural issue that both Republicans and Democrats have to solve ultimately. I am trying to be fair about this, because I have seen this happen when Republicans have been in charge, in all fairness.

I think the difference this time in the life of our country is that my Democrat colleagues have been distracted while trying to pass a massive tax-and-spend bill. It is the largest expansion of government and the largest tax hike. It is the biggest transfer of wealth. It is a lot of things, and they ain't good.

Meanwhile, we are just totally punting on managing our budget. Three years in a row, my colleagues have not put forth a budget.

What I would like to see us do, to fix this for both sides, is to consider when we are talking about CRs and the debt ceiling and we are putting on display for the entire world how dysfunctional we are with respect to budget and appropriations, is that we would actually put forward bipartisan reforms like enforceable spending caps. Those are gone after this year. How about paygos and CutGos that are actually enforceable so that we force Congress to do what everyone else in the country does, which is live within their means.

There is a whole list here. Debt targets; no budget, no recess. How about we stay here and celebrate Christmas together and the holidays until we get a dadgum budget passed?

There are lots of bipartisan measures that I implore my colleagues to talk to their leadership about while I am talking to mine, so we can do something about it and not just keep this dysfunction going infinitum.

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Speaker, once again, it has been the Republicans' refusal to come to the table to negotiate that has stopped the process and forced us to do a short-term stopgap measure. We shouldn't be doing it, but Republicans need to come to the table.

Madam Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. RYAN), the chairman of the Subcommittee on the Legislative Branch.

Mr. RYAN. Madam Speaker, what you are seeing here before the United States Congress is two clear, different visions of America and where we want to go and what we want to do.

We know that China is running circles around us. We know they are building islands in the South China Sea. We know Russia is on the border. We know the middle class has been eroded. And we know the Republican philosophy has been cut taxes for the top 1 percent and hope the crumbs fall down to places like Youngstown, Ohio.

But what we are trying to do is three things. We want to build the United States, we want to rebuild the middle class, and we want to beat China.

But we can't do that if we don't have our greatest weapon. And our greatest weapon during the Cold War and our greatest weapon over the last 50 years has been a strong middle class. That has been our greatest weapon, our greatest strength. We reinvested into the United States, we reinvested into our communities, we invested in the technology, and we dominated the industry: steel, glass, and aerospace.

Now, we are hearing from the other side: Shut government down. Don't do anything. We don't want to be an honest broker.

Tyranny? What are you people talking about? We are talking about universal preschool, and they have it as a communist indoctrination of the American student. It is insane.

We need to pass this appropriations bill. We need to pass the CHIPS Act, because we have got to close the technology gap.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Speaker, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentleman from Ohio.

Mr. RYAN. Madam Speaker, we see all of these cargo ships out in California. They are not coming from Kansas. They are coming from China. If we don't reinvest and bring these supply chains back here, we are going to continue to lose. That is what is happening.

China is out-manufacturing us in semiconductors, communications equipment, electric vehicles, and batteries. We have to rebuild our country, or this whole thing isn't going to work.

We have got to make sure our kids are healthy and educated and skilled so they can thrive and outcompete China. That is what this bill is about. It is not about tyranny. It is not about communist indoctrination. It is about rebuilding the United States.

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I just want to make a point. The Republicans on the Appropriations Committee want to increase our defense spending. We don't want to cut defense spending. Both the Republicans and the Democrats on the authorizing committee don't want to cut the defense spending. And both the Republicans and Democrats in the United States Senate don't want to cut defense spending.

We have a national defense strategy that was laid down by General Mattis, which I think we should follow, which asked for a net increase of a minimum of 3 to 5 percent net of inflation. That is just to maintain some credible deterrent against China and a resurgent Russia. Until we get to those numbers, we will continue to be operating on a continuing resolution.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Speaker, if the Republicans wanted to do something about our defense and our security in the military, they would move to work with us to pass the defense appropriations bill and the omnibus.

Madam Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ), the chair of the Subcommittee on Military Construction and Veterans' Affairs.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Madam Speaker, the Republicans' refusal to negotiate bipartisan spending bills has us standing on another shutdown cliff and, once more, relying on another Band-Aid funding bill. It is the same place we were 2 months ago when Congress voted to provide 2 more months for earnest negotiations. Since then, House and Senate Democrats put forth proposals, and Republicans put nothing on the table.

As anyone who figures out their household bills every week knows, a table full of nothing doesn't keep the lights on, doesn't put groceries on the table. Nothing isn't going to put food in the refrigerator, and it certainly doesn't pay the phone bill or buy anyone's prescriptions. But that is what Republicans came up with in the last 2 months: absolutely nothing.

It looks a lot like the solutions Republicans put forward to solve all of the problems American families face: nothing. They have no plan.

So as responsible stewards, Democrats on the Appropriations Committee crafted yet another extension to maintain funding levels through February and ensure that our most urgent needs can be met.

But working families, small businesses, and veterans can't live on temporary patches. They need the certainty that comes with passing a full appropriations package to create jobs, prevent future pandemics, and keep schools safe. We need an omnibus budget to safeguard our air, our food, and our water.

As chair of the Subcommittee on Military Construction and Veterans' Affairs, I know veterans need an omnibus to get their earned benefits, to slash the claims backlogs they face, and to fully meet their VA healthcare needs.

I urge a "yes" vote on this continuing resolution because it will keep the government open and extend funding for critical education, health, housing, and public safety programs. These are programs and services that every community, red or blue, relies on every day.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Speaker, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentlewoman from Florida.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Madam Speaker, Republicans' refusal to put the American people first and faithfully negotiate leaves every parent and mom-and-pop shop less secure. Let's get serious about governing.

I say to my Republican colleagues: It is time to show up for work and stop worshipping at the altar of Donald Trump for 5 minutes, long enough to do your job.

Let's stop this legislative brinksmanship and immediately begin to negotiate the FY 2022 bills so we can meet our country's needs.

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I think everybody knows, Madam Speaker, what the conditions are that have been pretty much publicized. National defense spending must go up and the balance of the appropriations has to come down; the legacy riders must come back in, and the poison pills have to go away. It is pretty simple, as far as I am concerned.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Speaker, I want to remind my colleague on the other side of the aisle that a continuing resolution is a cut to defense. If you come to the table, we will discuss it, then we can move forward on the defense of this Nation.

Madam Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentlewoman from Maine (Ms. PINGREE), the chair of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies.

Ms. PINGREE. Madam Speaker, I rise to support the continuing resolution, which extends government funding at current levels until we pass a full appropriations package for the next fiscal year.

It is my strong hope that this short-term extension will be the last one and that my colleagues across the aisle will acknowledge our solemn duty to exercise the power of the purse.

A continuing resolution that lasts a full year does not serve the American people. As the chair of the Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies, I can attest that the investments in the House interior bill would benefit all of our constituents, for those of us on both sides of the aisle.

The bill makes long-overdue investments to protect human health, to fight the climate emergency, and to meet our trust obligations to Tribal nations. It provides critical resources to rebuild the Federal workforce so that these agencies can meet their missions and better serve the public.

Failing to complete a full-year bill means no additional investments in the EPA to research and develop standards for harmful pollutants like PFAS, no further investments in domestic renewable energy, and insufficient resources for the healthcare of nearly 2.2 million American Indians and Alaska Natives.

Regardless of whether we pass a full-year bill, we can be certain that millions of Americans will be exposed to pollution, that healthcare costs will rise, and that our window for mitigating climate change will shrink.

To ignore these threats is not in the Nation's best interest, nor any of ours. We were sent to Congress to improve the lives and livelihoods of our constituents.

Madam Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to support this bill, but I encourage my colleagues on the other side of the aisle to finish the bill.

Madam Speaker, I include in the RECORD a letter from The Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research.

THE AD HOC GROUP
FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH,
November 15, 2021.

Hon. ROSA DELAURO,
*Chair, Committee on Appropriations,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.*
Hon. KAY GRANGER,
*Ranking Member, Committee on Appropriations,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.*
Hon. PATRICK LEAHY,
*Chair, Committee on Appropriations,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.*
Hon. RICHARD SHELBY,
*Vice Chair, Committee on Appropriations,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.*

DEAR CHAIRWOMAN DELAURO, CHAIRMAN LEAHY, RANKING MEMBER GRANGER, AND VICE CHAIRMAN SHELBY: Thank you for your past leadership in championing sustained, real growth in medical research funding. As Congress begins to draft a final fiscal year (FY) 2022 spending package, the 314 undersigned members of the Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research urge you to invest robustly in agencies and programs to improve the nation's health and well-being, including base funding for the National Institutes of Health (NIH), as a key national priority and to finalize the appropriations process as expeditiously as possible. The Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research is a coalition of patient and voluntary health groups, medical and scientific societies, academic and research organizations, and industry, dedicated to enhancing the federal investment in biomedical, behavioral, social, and population-based research supported by the NIH.

We greatly appreciate that both the House-passed (H.R. 4502) and Senate draft Labor-HHS-Education spending bills include strong increases for the NIH base in FY 2022, which would provide greater hope and opportunity for every patient awaiting a cure, every researcher working toward the next breakthrough, and every aspiring scientist considering a career in the lab. To maximize the potential of medical research to make rapid progress toward these goals, we urge you to provide at least \$46.4 billion for NIH's base, as included in the House-passed bill. Continuing the momentum of the prior six years of bipartisan support for meaningful funding growth in the NIH's existing institutes and centers is key to ensuring that the nation can continue to accelerate the development of life-changing cures, pioneering treatments and diagnostics, and innovative preventive strategies.

Additionally, we appreciate that both bills ensure that the new investment for the proposed Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health (ARPA-H) supplements, rather than supplants, the NIH's base. While complementary, NIH and ARPA-H have distinct and important missions. As such, investment in ARPA-H must not come at the expense of the NIH base. Instead, to fully realize the benefits of the envisioned new entity while simultaneously allowing NIH to keep pace with discovery, an FY 2022 appropriation of at least \$46.4 billion for NIH's base budget is needed. Prioritizing strong investments for foundational research discoveries funded by the NIH will be critical to the success of the visionary new research initiative, particularly as it builds its operational capacity in its inaugural year and beyond. Likewise, avoiding further delays in finalizing funding determinations will enable both ARPA-H and NIH's planned and existing programs to be maximally efficient and strategic in their work in FY 2022.

To that end, our organizations strongly support an approach to the final FY 2022 spending package that avoids additional CRs past December. Aside from the budget implications, CRs create inefficiencies and add uncertainty to a system that is already

under stress with the continued reverberations of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. We strongly urge you to work swiftly in securing bipartisan, bicameral agreement on topline discretionary spending allocations and to ensure any final budget agreement reflects a strong commitment to the nation's health.

Once again, we commend you for continuing to recognize the incomparable value of the federal investment in the NIH, and we look forward to working with you to secure \$46.4 billion for the agency's base in FY 2022, in addition to funding you provide for ARPA-H.

Sincerely,

314 SIGNATORIES AS OF NOVEMBER 15, 2021

Academic Consortium for Integrative Medicine & Health, Academic Pediatric Association, Academy for Eating Disorders, Academy for Professionalism in Health Care, Academy for Radiology & Biomedical Imaging Research, ACT for NIH, AdventHealth, Albert Einstein College of Medicine, Alliance for Academic Internal Medicine (AAIM), Alliance for Aging Research, ALS Association, Alzheimer's Association and Alzheimer's Impact Movement, Alzheimer's Foundation of America, American Academy of Addiction Psychiatry (AAP), American Academy of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology, American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine, American Academy of Neurology, American Academy of Pediatrics, American Academy of Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation.

American Academy of Sleep Medicine, American Association for Anatomy, American Association for Cancer Research, American Association for Dental, Oral, and Craniofacial Research, American Association for the Advancement of Science, American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases, American Association of Chairs of Departments of Psychiatry, American Association of Colleges of Nursing, American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine, American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy, American Association of Directors of Psychiatry Residency Training, American Association of Immunologists, American Association of Neurological Surgeons, American Association of Neuromuscular & Electrophysiological Medicine, American Association of Physicians in Medicine, American Association of Veterinary Medical Colleges, American Brain Coalition, American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network, American College of Academic Addiction Medicine (ACAAM), American College of Cardiology.

American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, American College of Physicians, American College of Radiology, American College of Surgeons, American Council on Education, American Gastroenterological Association, American Geriatrics Society, American Headache Society, American Institute for Cancer Research, American Institute for Medical & Biomedical Engineering, American Institute of Ultrasound in Medicine, American Liver Foundation, American Lung Association, American Massage Therapy Association, American Pediatric Society, American Physiological Society, American Psychiatric Association, American Psychological Association, American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, American Society for Investigative Pathology.

American Society for Microbiology, American Society for Nutrition, American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics, American Society for Reproductive Medicine (ASRM), American Society for Virology, American Society of Anesthesiologists, American Society of Hematology, American Society of Human Genetics, American Society of Nephrology, American Society of Neuroradiology, American Society of

Pediatric Nephrology, American Society of Radiologic Technologists, American Surgical Association, American Thoracic Society, American Urogynecologic Society, American Urological Association, Anxiety and Depression Association of America, Associated Medical Schools of New York.

Association for Anatomy, Cell Biology and Neurobiology Chairs (AACBNC), Association for Clinical and Translational Science, Association for Clinical Oncology, Association for Prevention Teaching and Research, Association for Psychological Science, Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology (ARVO), Association of Academic Health Centers (AAHC), Association of Academic Health Sciences Libraries, Association of Academic Physiatrists.

Association of American Cancer Institutes, Association of American Medical Colleges, Association of American Universities, Association of Bioethics Program Directors, Association of Chairs of Departments of Physiology, Association of Independent Research Institutes, Association of Medical and Graduate Departments of Biochemistry (AMGDB), Association of Medical School Pediatric Department Chairs, Association of Minority Health Professions Schools, Association of Pathology Chairs, Association of Population Centers, Association of Psychologists in Academic Health Centers, Association of Public and Land-grant Universities, Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry (ASCO), Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health, Association of University Professors of Neurology, Association of University Professors of Ophthalmology, Association of University Radiologists, Atrium Health, Autism Speaks.

AVAC (AIDS Vaccine Advocacy Coalition), Barnes-Jewish Hospital, Bassett Healthcare Network, Biophysical Society, BJC HealthCare, Boston Medical Center, Boston University, Boyce Thompson Institute for Plant Research, Brown University, Carle Illinois College of Medicine, Case Western Reserve University, CDH International, Cedars-Sinai, Child Neurology Foundation, Children's Healthcare of Atlanta, Children's Hospital Los Angeles, Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, Children's Mercy Kansas City, Cholangiocarcinoma Foundation, ChristianaCare.

Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation, Clinical Research Forum, Coalition for Clinical and Translational Science, Coalition for the Life Sciences, College on Problems of Drug Dependence, Columbia University, COMBINEDBrain, Conference of Boston Teaching Hospitals, Congress of Neurological Surgeons, Consortium of Social Science Associations, Cooley's Anemia Foundation, Coriell Institute for Medical Research, Cornell University, Council of University Directors of Clinical Psychology, Council on Social Work Education, Crohn's & Colitis Foundation, CURE Epilepsy, Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Dartmouth-Hitchcock Health.

Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance, Digestive Disease National Coalition, Dravet Syndrome Foundation, Drexel University, Duke Health, Duke University, Dystonia Medical Research Foundation, East Carolina University, ECAN Esophageal Cancer Action Network, Emory University, Endocrine Society, Epilepsy Foundation, Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB), Federation of Associations in Behavioral and Brain Sciences, Fight Colorectal Cancer, Foundation for Sarcoidosis Research, Fox Chase Cancer Center, Friends of the National Institute on Drug Abuse, GBSICIDP Foundation International, Global Health Technologies Coalition.

Global Liver Institute, Harvard University, HealthyWomen, Henry Ford Health System,

HIV Medicine Association, Hope For Stomach Cancer, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, Indiana University, Indiana University Health, Infectious Diseases Society of America, Initiative to End Alzheimer's Disease Board of Visitors, International Foundation for Gastrointestinal Disorders, International Society for Stem Cell Research (ISSCR), Interstitial Cystitis Association, JDRC, Jeffrey Modell Foundation, John & Amy Mewhinney Cancer Foundation, Johns Hopkins University and Medicine, Joslin Diabetes Center, KidneyCAN.

Lewis Katz School of Medicine at Temple University, Lewy Body Dementia Association, LGS Foundation, Lupus Foundation of America, Lymphatic Education & Research Network, Magee-Womens Research Institute and Foundation, March of Dimes, Mass General Brigham, Medical College of Wisconsin, Medical Image Perception Society, Medical Library Association, Memorial Sloan Kettering, MemorialCare Health System, Mesothelioma Applied Research Foundation, METAvivor, Michelson Center for Public Policy, Michelson Medical Research Foundation, Michigan State University, Moffitt Cancer Center, National Alliance for Eye and Vision Research.

National Alopecia Areata Foundation, National Association for Biomedical Research, National Eczema Association, National Fragile X Foundation, National Kidney Foundation, National Pancreas Foundation, NephCure Kidney International, New York Medical College, New York University, North American Vascular Biology Organization, Northeastern University, Nutrition & Medical Foods Coalition, NYU Langone Health, Oakland University, Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation, Pancreatic Cancer Action Network, Patient Services, Inc., Pediatric Policy Council, Penn State University, Personalized Medicine Coalition.

Population Association of America, Project Sleep, Prostate Cancer Foundation, Pulmonary Fibrosis Foundation, Pulmonary Hypertension Association, Radiological Society of North America (RSNA), Recurrent Pregnancy Loss Association, Research!America, RESOLVE: The National Infertility Association, Restless Legs Syndrome Foundation, Rosalind Franklin University of Medicine and Science, RTI International, Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, Sanford Burnham Prebys Medical Discovery Institute, Scleroderma Foundation, Sjogren's Foundation, Sleep Research Society, Society for Academic Emergency Medicine (SAEM), Society for Imaging Informatics in Medicine.

Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine, Society for Neuroscience, Society for Pediatric Radiology, Society for Pediatric Research, Society for Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility, Society for Reproductive Investigation, Society for Women's Health Research, Society of Academic Associations of Anesthesiology and Perioperative Medicine (SAAAPM), Society of Behavioral Medicine, Society of General Internal Medicine, Society of Gynecologic Oncology, Society of Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging, Society of Skeletal Radiology, Society of Surgical Chairs, Society of Toxicology (SOT), Society of University Surgeons, St. Louis Children's Hospital, Stanford University, Stony Brook University, Syngap1 Foundation.

Temple University, Texas A&M Health, The American College of Rheumatology, The American Society for Transplantation and Cellular Therapy, The Gerontological Society of America, The Jackson Laboratory, The Maya's Wings Foundation, The Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research, The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center, The State University of New York,

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, The University of North Carolina System, The University of Texas, Southwestern Medical Center, Triage Cancer, TSC Alliance, Tulane University School of Medicine, UC San Diego, UCLA, UNC Health and UNC School of Medicine, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences.

University of California, Irvine, University of Chicago Medical Center, University of Cincinnati, University of Colorado System, University of Connecticut, University of Hawai'i System, University of Illinois College of Medicine, University of Iowa, University of Maryland, Baltimore, University of Massachusetts Chan Medical School, University of Michigan, University of Nebraska Medical Center, University of Pennsylvania, University of Pittsburgh, University of Pittsburgh Health Sciences, University of Rochester, University of South Carolina, University of Southern California, University of Washington, US Hereditary Angioedema Association (HAEA).

USF Health Morsani College of Medicine, UVA Health, Vanderbilt University, Vanderbilt University Medical Center, Virginia Commonwealth University, Washington State University, Washington University in St. Louis, West Virginia University, Yale University.

□ 1600

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PERRY).

Mr. PERRY. Madam Speaker, in the name of science, congressional Democrats are continuing their unconstitutional, unlawful march to force Americans to get the jab.

Think about it. Democrats are already on the path to ruin Christmas, destroying the supply chain. They are just going to keep going, right? Destroying industry after industry.

For a party who praised America's healthcare workers when there wasn't a jab available, who were out there on the front lines, now if they don't get it, it is okay to fire them, and not a word.

Finally, mandates for defense contractors and intelligence workers who have to make a choice between defending their country and putting their own life in peril, and no discussion about natural immunity, none whatsoever. You could have had COVID already. Not good enough. You have got to get the jab or lose your job.

Vote against this.

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Speaker, I just want to remind the gentleman that antiscience fearmongering about vaccines is wrong. Science is on our side, and history is on our side. Vaccines work.

I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. QUIGLEY), the chairman of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government.

Mr. QUIGLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today in disappointed support of a second continuing resolution, but let's remember, every continuing resolution reflects a failure to govern.

House Democrats did our job and passed government funding bills, all of them, to create good-paying jobs to support the hardworking middle class and protect our national security.

In September, we voted on a bipartisan basis to extend government funding through December 3 to allow negotiations to finalize legislation. Since then, my colleagues across the aisle have refused to seriously negotiate with us on funding.

That leads us to where we are now, considering another new short-term CR right before the holiday break, when we should have already completed our work.

The definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over again and expecting a different result. Sure enough, here we are again, having to pass another short-term CR because we can't pass funding bills in a regular manner.

There is more than enough time in a year to come to an agreement and pass funding bills. America's friends and enemies around the world are watching us to see if our country can continue to function in a changing world. We must show them we can, but this effort requires compromise, as it always has.

I ask them to join us for a bipartisan, bicameral negotiation to resolve our differences and keep government working for the people.

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. CARTWRIGHT), the chairman of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies.

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of the continuing resolution. At the same time, I join my colleagues in calling on the other side of the aisle to join in helping enact a year-long appropriations act, the way we are supposed to do, rather than relying on this kind of stop-and-go government funding or a full-year continuing resolution, as has also been threatened.

Look, a full-year continuing resolution would be disastrous to our country in so many ways. It would greatly limit or reduce essential investments in our Nation's future.

As for the Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies appropriations bill, as reported out of committee earlier this year, it provides funding increases aimed at creating jobs in distressed communities, enforcing our trade laws, fighting crime and supporting community involvement with law enforcement, ensuring civil rights, advancing American scientific research, fighting the opioid epidemic, confronting the climate crisis, among so many other critical public investments. These funding increases are only possible with an appropriations agreement.

I urge support, both for the short-term CR, and to quickly finalize a full-year appropriations agreement.

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I thank the Chairwoman and all of the very important people on the Appropriations Committee for their work on this bill.

I ask the question, what side do you want to be on? Do you want to be on the side that provides our hardworking military pay raises for the troops, to be able to get money away from a misdirected war?

Do you want to be on the side that provides for working families?

Do you want to be on the side that stops those who can't pay for daycare to have that?

Do you want to be on the side of those who say, "I am a Federal employee, and I have been shut out of my job"?

What side do you want to be on? I want to be on the side of negotiating an omnibus that works for the American people. I want my Republican friends to know that we have tried to negotiate, but we are adults and we are not going to let this government shut down.

What we are going to do is recognize these are dangerous times. We know that there is now an omicron variant. We are not going to play the antivaxxer game, we are not going to say that it is about vaccine mandates because we know that most of the Federal Government has been vaccinated; but what we are going to do is extend this resolution to keep the government open because the side that Democrats are on is the side of the American people and our government workers who go out and work every day and the families who go out and work every day.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. SCANLON). The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Speaker, I yield the gentlewoman an additional 30 seconds.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. I thank the gentlewoman for yielding. A shutdown would induce furloughs that could hit 62 percent of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control, right in the middle of COVID-19.

In addition, families would be desperate as well.

I want you to understand that veterans would suffer. During the Thanksgiving holiday, I went to the veterans hospital. I can tell you, it is not empty. Veterans are there every day, and when they are there, they are getting services. Do you want to be part of a government shutdown where veterans hospitals are closed and veterans are standing outside with their hand asking what is happening?

I want to be on the side of those who understand the value of working for the American families and doing what Democrats have done, passing bills, passing laws that serve the American people.

Vote for the CR and vote for the omnibus so that we can get the job done. I thank the gentlewoman for her courtesies.

Madam Speaker, as a senior member of the Committees on the Judiciary, on Homeland Security, and on the Budget, I rise in support of H.R. 6119, the "Further Extending Government Funding Act," which provides funding to continue the operations of the federal government through February 18, 2022, and avoids a wasteful and irresponsible shutdown, and also the underlying bill.

House Democrats passed government funding bills to create good paying jobs, support the hard-working middle class, and protect our national security; Senate Democrats have also released all their appropriations bills.

Without an omnibus, there will be a shortfall that will cause veterans not to receive their benefits in full.

For our national security, we need an omnibus to support defense readiness and modernization, sustain good-paying American jobs, secure our cyber infrastructure, and strengthen American leadership abroad.

Without an omnibus, a pay raise for troops will not be funded while funds will be misdirected to a war we are no longer fighting.

With a new deadline of February 18, we need Republicans to offer constructive proposals to address the critical issues facing the country by funding the federal government's important work for the American people.

Madam Speaker, I need not remind my colleagues that we are at a critical point in the fight against this pandemic—less than 24 hours ago, it was reported that the first case of the Omicron variant was confirmed in the United States.

Our response in the following days and weeks will be crucial.

Yet some of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle in the House and the Senate have indicated that they intend to block the passage of this stopgap spending bill in order to trigger a shutdown of the Federal government unless a bill is passed that undoes President Biden's initiatives to vaccinate and test employees at large companies.

Simply put, this is irresponsible and dangerous at a time when we have a new threat on our soil in the form of the Omicron variant.

A government shutdown would induce furloughs that could hit 62 percent of employees at the U.S. Centers for Disease Control.

It would be nothing other than reckless to hamstring the agency at the center of America's fight against the COVID-19 pandemic at this time—we need all hands on deck.

In September, Congress voted on a bipartisan basis to extend government funding through December 3 to allow time for bicameral, bipartisan negotiations to complete omnibus government funding legislation.

Since then, House and Senate Republicans have refused to negotiate with Democrats on government funding.

In fact, while House and Senate Democrats have put forward their proposals, Republicans have not presented an offer of their own.

Therefore, the Appropriations Committee introduced H.R. 6119, the Further Extending Government Funding Act, which continues government funding at current levels through February 18.

It makes minimal changes to address the most urgent of needs during the period of the Continuing Resolution.

Although this bill is necessary, working families, small businesses, veterans, and our military need the certainty that comes with pass-

ing an omnibus as opposed to short-term funding patches.

Republicans must join us for bipartisan, bicameral negotiations to resolve our differences and keep government working for the people.

For our communities, we need an omnibus to create jobs by supporting small businesses, bolster our public health infrastructure to prevent future pandemics and medical research to save lives, strengthen public schools with a focus on those serving students with the highest need, protect our air and water through environmental protection and enforcement efforts, combat the opioid epidemic on the ground in our communities, and support core services such as food safety and consumer product inspections.

Without an omnibus, investments in all these areas will be denied.

For our veterans, we need an omnibus to provide sufficient funding for veterans' benefits, reduce backlogs for veterans and their families seeking assistance, and meet the needs of the VA's health care system.

Throughout the 117th Congress, House Democrats have worked to deliver results for the American people, passing legislation to address each pillar of the "For The People" agenda: lower health care costs, higher wages by rebuilding America, and cleaning up corruption and strengthening our Democracy.

And under the leadership of Speaker PELOSI, the House has passed hundreds of bills, including legislation to crush the COVID-19 pandemic, build our economy back better, lower health care and prescription drug prices, raise wages, advance economic and retirement security, end gun violence, act on the climate crisis, protect Dreamers, and strengthen voting rights.

For example, in this Congress the House has passed and sent to the President the following legislation that has been signed into law:

H.R. 1799, Paycheck Protection Program Extension Act:

This legislation extended the Paycheck Protection Program application deadline for two months through May 31, 2021 to help struggling businesses keep workers employed during COVID-19.

H.R. 1276, SAVE LIVES Act:

This law ensured that more veterans, their families, and caregivers got access to COVID-19 vaccines in a timely manner.

S. 937, COVID-19 Hate Crimes Act:

This law addresses the dramatic increase in hate crimes targeting the AAPI community since the start of the pandemic. This law designates a point person at the Department of Justice to review hate crimes related to the COVID-19 pandemic, bolsters state and local governments to improve their reporting of hate crimes and ensures that hate crime information is more accessible to Asian-American communities.

S. 475, Juneteenth National Independence Day Act:

This law established the first federal holiday in 38 years to formally recognize Juneteenth National Independence Day and commemorate the end of slavery in the United States.

House Democrats have also worked to advance critical pieces of legislation, which await action in the Senate:

H.R. 1, For The People Act:

This comprehensive legislation would promote government transparency, strengthen ac-

cess to the ballot box and make it easier for Americans to exercise their right to vote, secure election infrastructure, and curb the influence of dark money in politics.

H.R. 5, Equality Act:

The Equality Act would codify consistent anti-discrimination legal protections for LGBTQ Americans by amending several existing civil rights laws to include explicit non-discrimination protections in key areas of life.

H.R. 6, Dream and Promise Act:

The Dream and Promise Act would protect Dreamers, Temporary Protected Status (TPS), and Deferred Enforced Departure (DED) status holders from deportation and provide an opportunity to obtain permanent legal status that would enable these groups to work legally within the United States and continue to contribute to their local communities and economy.

H.R. 7, Paycheck Fairness Act:

This bill would strengthen labor protections around equal pay by prohibiting the use of salary history to set compensation, provide more transparent options for joining class-action lawsuits challenging systemic discrimination, and require employers to show that gender pay gaps are job-related and consistent with business need.

H.R. 8, Bipartisan Background Checks Act and H.R. 1446, the Enhanced Background Checks Act:

These bills would modernize federal laws around gun sales. The former would close current loopholes that allow buyers to purchase guns without a background check in certain venues, while the latter would prevent gun sales from going through before background checks are completed.

H.R. 1280, the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act:

This bill, which House Democrats also passed in the 116th Congress 30 days after the murder of George Floyd, will address racial bias in policing, ensure accountability for police brutality and misconduct, and work to change the culture of law enforcement to promote better relationships with the communities they serve.

H.R. 842, Protecting the Right to Organize (PRO) Act:

This bill aims to strengthen labor protections for union workers through overriding Republican-led "right to work" laws, promoting free and fair union elections, and holding companies that attempt to restrict union activity accountable.

H.J. Res. 17, Removing the Deadline for Ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment:

This resolution would remove the deadline for ratifying the Equal Rights Amendment in order to enshrine women's equality in the Constitution.

H.R. 1620, Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act:

This long-overdue legislation to reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act passed the House with bipartisan support. It would reauthorize funding to vital grant programs that help prevent sexual assault, domestic violence, and improve access to resources for victims and survivors.

H.R. 3237, the Emergency Security Supplemental to Respond to 1/6 Appropriations Act:

This bill provides \$1.9 billion in funding to secure the U.S. Capitol Complex and ensure the brave men and women of the U.S. Capitol Police have the resources they need to do

their jobs. The legislation responds to the direct costs incurred by the National Guard and DC police on January 6, provides funding to improve the security of windows and doors in the Capitol complex, and secures funds to improve Capitol Police training and equipment.

H.R. 3005, Legislation to #RemoveHate from the Capitol Building:

This bill would remove statues of those who perpetuated and supported slavery and segregation in this country, along with statues or busts of those who served voluntarily in the Confederate States of America, from public display in the U.S. Capitol.

H.R. 1603, the Farm Workforce Modernization Act:

This bipartisan bill would stabilize the agriculture industry's labor supply by reforming the H-2A guest worker program and creating a pathway to citizenship for agricultural workers, many of whom worked through the pandemic.

H.R. 51, the Washington, DC Admission Act:

This bill would admit Washington, DC as the 51st state in the Union and end the injustice in denying nearly 700,000 citizens the right to be represented fully in Congress. It would also end the unjust practice of treating District of Columbia residents differently when allocating government resources or relief.

H.R. 3985, ALLIES Act:

This bill would increase the visa cap and expedite the visa process for Afghan allies who worked alongside American military personnel, diplomats, development professionals, and partner forces, to help ensure they make it safely out of harm's way.

H.R. 803, Protecting America's Wilderness and Public Lands Act:

This comprehensive bill would conserve and protect natural landscapes across America, designating over 1.5 million acres of public land as protected wilderness and withdrawing significant amount of public land from drilling and mining activities to promote a healthier environment.

H.R. 2467, the PFAS Action Act:

This bipartisan bill would improve the safety of Americans' drinking water by requiring the EPA to set a drinking water standard, prevent the future release of PFAS chemicals into our bodies of water, and start the process of cleaning up affected communities.

H.R. 256, Repeal of the 2002 AUMF Against Iraq:

This bill, which passed with bipartisan support, would repeal the 2002 Authorization of Military Force Against Iraq.

H.R. 1230, the Protecting Older Workers Against Discrimination Act:

The bipartisan Protecting Older Workers Against Discrimination Act restores protections for older workers that were weakened in a 2009 Supreme Court ruling that made it harder for older workers to prove age based discrimination in the workplace.

H.R. 2662, the Inspectors-General Independence and Empowerment Act:

This bill seeks to promote government transparency and accountability by ensuring the independence of federal inspectors-general, allowing government watchdogs to act freely without fear of political pressure or threats. It would also protect whistleblowers from threats of retaliation by making it a violation of House rules for Members to reveal their identities.

In addition, three Congressional Review Act resolutions have been signed into law, over-

turning dangerous rules put in place by the Trump Administration:

S.J. Res 13, a CRA overturning an EEOC rule to address discrimination in the workplace;

S.J. Res. 14, a CRA addressing dangerous methane emissions; and

S.J. Res. 15, a CRA to protect against predatory lenders.

These along with many, many others are among the bills awaiting Senate action.

Madam Speaker, let me briefly list several of the programs vital to Americans that are protected or extended by H.R. 6119. The bill:

Provides waiver language for certain intelligence programs as well as agencies that operate under the State Department Basic Authorities Act and Foreign Relations Authorization Act;

Allows the Food and Nutrition Service to spend at a higher rate during the period covered by the legislation to provide supplemental USDA foods to low-income seniors (age 60 and over) and to some low-income women, infants and children up to age six.

Allows a higher spending rate for the White House to support continuing COVID-19 operations.

Allows the Small Business Administration flexibility to spend at the rate necessary to accommodate potential demand increases for commitments for business loans through the 7(a) and 504 business loans, for the Secondary Market Guarantee Program, and for the Small Business Investment Company (SBIC) program.

Allows District of Columbia voucher schools an additional year to be accredited and therefore remain in the program. The accrediting process requires in-school visits, which are not happening during the coronavirus.

Allows the District of Columbia to spend FY 2021 funds received from local tax revenues and other non-Federal sources in the amount and for the programs and activities provided in DC's FY 2021 Budget Act.

Extends the term of certain bankruptcy judgeships.

Allows the Federal Emergency Management Agency to access the entire DRF appropriation for fiscal year 2021 under the continuing resolution as necessary to respond to declared disasters.

Continues the authorization for the NFIP.

Extends funding for the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program and the Child Care Entitlement to States program during the period of the continuing resolution. The extension will allow HHS to make first-quarter payments to States.

Extends the availability of funding for multiyear research grants supported by the National Institutes of Health that were interrupted in fiscal year 2020 by COVID-19 and would have expired at the end of the fiscal year.

Madam Speaker, our colleagues across the aisle have in both chambers have been obstructive, dilatory, petulantly uncooperative throughout the first session of the 117th Congress.

Nowhere was this more apparent than the refusal of the majority of J Republican members in the House voted 175-35 against H.R. 3233, legislation modeled after the 9/11 Commission establishing a National Commission to Investigate the January 6 Attack on the United States Capitol Complex Act.

Madam Speaker, American families do not get to choose which bills to pay and which ones to ignore; neither can the United States Congress without putting the nation into default for the first time in its history.

Long ago, in 1789, Alexander Hamilton, the nation's first and greatest Treasury Secretary, understood that the path to American prosperity and greatness lay in its creditworthiness which provided the affordable access to capital needed to fund internal improvements and economic growth.

The nation's creditworthiness was one of its most important national assets and according to Hamilton: "the proper funding of the present debt, will render it a national blessing."

But to maintain this blessing, or to "render public credit immortal," Hamilton understood that it was necessary that: "the creation of debt should always be accompanied with the means of extinguishment."

In other words, to retain and enjoy the prosperity that flows from good credit, it is necessary for a nation to pay its bills.

To preserve the sanctity of the full faith and credit of the United States, protect American jobs and businesses of all sizes, and ensure the continued growth of the economy, I strongly support the provision in the bill before extending the public debt limit to December 16, 2021.

Madam Speaker, I would also like to discuss an important topic that is closely related to this bill and that this House must address very soon—raising the debt ceiling.

Preserving the full faith and credit of the United States by raising to the debt limit to ensure that America pays the bills for past expenditures when they come due is not a partisan exercise but an act of patriotism, a recognition and embrace of the solemn obligation to preserve the unrivaled advantages that flow from the ability provided in the Article I, Section 8, clause 2 of the Constitution to "borrow money on the credit of the United States."

Long ago, in 1789, Alexander Hamilton, the nation's first and greatest Treasury Secretary, understood that the path to American prosperity and greatness lay in its creditworthiness which provided the affordable access to capital needed to fund internal improvements and economic growth.

It is because of the existence and wise use of the Borrowing Power that the nation was able to expand its reaches, resources, and riches by financing the Louisiana Purchase, the purchase of Alaska from Russia, to fund the investments to end the Great Depression, to finance the mobilization of resources needed in World War II to defeat fascism and save freedom in the nation and the world, to revive the economy after the catastrophic Great Recession of 2008, and most recently, to protect the public health and safety and restore the economy during the COVID-19 pandemic.

This is why the ability to borrow money on the credit of the United States to finance its growth and protect its people and interests is essential to the national security and led Hamilton to proclaim that "the proper funding of the present debt, will render it a national blessing."

But to maintain this blessing, or to "render public credit immortal," Hamilton understood that it was necessary that: "the creation of debt should always be accompanied with the means of extinguishment."

In other words, to retain and enjoy the prosperity that flows from good credit, it is necessary for a nation to pay its bills.

The United States has never defaulted on the payment of any debt incurred, and because of the size and strength of its economic and unmatched creditworthiness, is able to borrow on the lowest and most favorable terms of any nation or entity in the history of the world.

So secure and reliable is a bond issued by the Department of Treasury that the United States is the preferred haven for investments of foreign governments, corporations, and sovereign wealth funds.

The interest rate charged the federal government of the United States is the base for which every rate, from the prime rate charged the richest corporation to rates charged small business on purchases to the mortgages rates and students loans taken out by consumers.

If you raise the cost of borrowing for the government of the United States, you set off a chain reaction of increased interest rates for every other borrower in the United States and around the world.

This is why leading public finance experts and agencies, like Moody's Chief Economist Mark Zandi, have said it would be "cataclysmic" for the United States to default on its loan obligations.

Republicans know the debt ceiling needs to be raised; in 2019 during the Trump Administration, the Republican Senate Majority Leader marshalled Senate Republicans to vote to raise the debt ceiling, saying: "We raised the debt ceiling because America can't default[,] that would be a disaster."

Madam Speaker, this debate over extending the debt limit is not about restraining future spending, it is about paying the bills piled up already under both Republican and Democratic administrations.

The question of raising the national debt limit does not depend on how one feels about the Build Back Better agenda, as wildly popular as it is among all Americans, Democrats, Independents, and Republicans included.

It is instead about preserving the singular asset of the United States, its enviable and unrivaled creditworthiness, to finance future investments beneficial to the national interest, like the provision of free college for two years, or \$2 billion investment to reduce violence in communities approved by the Committee on the Judiciary, or investments to preserve and strengthen Medicaid expansion programs, or extend broadband to underserved rural and urban areas, an action that will be as life-changing as the rural electrification program was in the 1930s.

Madam Speaker, if our friends across the aisle really want to shrink the deficit, reduce the national debt, practice fiscal responsibility, and bring about sustained economic growth and prosperity, there is a much better, easier, and more certain way to achieve these goals than by tampering with the U.S. Constitution.

The easier and better way is for the American people to keep a Democrat in the White House and place Democratic majorities in the House and Senate.

In the 1990s under the leadership of President Clinton the budget was balanced for four consecutive years, the national debt was paid down, the national debt, 23 million new jobs were created, and projected surpluses exceeded \$5 trillion.

Under President Obama the financial crisis and economic meltdown inherited from his Republican predecessor was ended, the annual

deficit was reduced by 67 percent, the auto industry was saved from collapse, and 15 million jobs were created.

In contrast, under every Republican administration since President Reagan the size of the deficit bequeathed to his successor was substantially larger than the deficit he inherited, a major economic recession occurred, and economic growth was lower than it was at the beginning of his administration.

To preserve the sanctity of the full faith and credit of the United States, protect American jobs and businesses of all sizes, and ensure the continued growth of the economy, raised.

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I am kind of a little confused. Last I looked, the Democratic Party controls the House, they control the Senate, and they control the White House. If they want to pass an omnibus bill, pass it.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. CICILLINE).

Mr. CICILLINE. Madam Speaker, I first want to say thank you to the Appropriations chair and to the members of the Appropriations Committee for their extraordinary work.

Let's be clear about one thing. A continuing resolution is not a way to proceed, but it is the only way we can proceed in the face of Republican obstruction, and when you vote "no" on the continuing resolution, you are voting to defund the government and shut it down.

That means veterans can't access healthcare at the VA.

It means Native American Tribes can't have access to healthcare and schools.

It means our troops won't get the pay they deserve.

You are voting to shut the government down, and at the same time you are unwilling to be part of a process to pass appropriations bills for an entire year. You are here to govern. You have a responsibility to make sure this appropriation process works. And I am grateful for the service of the members of the Appropriations Committee that have worked on this in a painstaking way.

We have Republicans in the Senate who are obstructing this process, but I am glad that I am part of the process that makes sure government remains open, that we take care of our responsibilities, that we ensure that the economic recovery that is underway is not hampered. I thank the chair of the Appropriations Committee for the hard work in bringing us to this moment.

I urge everyone to support the continuing resolution. Be responsible.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to direct their remarks to the Chair.

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Let me just say to you that we have heard from a number of advocacy

groups urging the Congress to move on taking up a full-year omnibus. Let me just tell you the groups that have written to us.

We are looking at the National Defense Industrial Association: On behalf of thousands of companies represented by the National Defense Industrial Association, we write to request the expedited completion of the defense appropriation bill.

We talk about the Association of American Universities: Urge you to reach a bipartisan agreement to complete the FY22 appropriations process before the end of the year.

The Aerospace Industries Association: Our essential partners are urging us to avoid a further CR beyond December 3, wanting us to come to the table in order to be able to have a full-year appropriations bill.

The Coalition for Health Funding, the same message to all of us: Relying on continuing resolutions would be a grave, missed opportunity to improve the lives of all Americans. A full-year appropriations bill.

The Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research telling us the very, very same thing: To maximize the potential of medical research, we need to move forward with a full-year bill.

The veterans organizations saying the same thing: Do not shortchange veterans and their benefits by holding back on a full-year appropriations bill.

Madam Speaker, I include in the RECORD statements in support of the bill from a broad coalition of groups urging negotiations now, as well as letters from veterans' organizations and America's leading research universities.

BROAD COALITION OF GROUPS URGING NEGOTIATIONS NOW

A broad coalition of groups have joined Chair DeLauro and Democratic Appropriators urging negotiations and agreement on fiscal year 2022 appropriations bills. These organizations include:

AD HOC GROUP FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH

Our organizations strongly support an approach to the final FY 2022 spending package that avoids additional CRs past December. Aside from the budget implications, CRs create inefficiencies and add uncertainty to a system that is already under stress with the continued reverberations of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. We strongly urge you to work swiftly in securing bipartisan, bicameral agreement on topline discretionary spending allocations and to ensure any final budget agreement reflects a strong commitment to the nation's health.

AEROSPACE INDUSTRIES ASSOCIATION

The United States aerospace and defense industries are an essential partner with the federal government in an array of efforts vital to our economy and our national security. Each fall, that partnership is tested when those programs are slowed down or deferred by the use of multiple continuing resolutions (CR) to keep the government running . . . If Congress fails to once again enact full-year appropriations bills, or continues running the government into 2022 under continuing resolutions, it will send the wrong signal to the government's partners, like those in our industry. We count on stable, reliable and adequate funding to support

the critical capabilities that we provide for all Americans.

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR CANCER RESEARCH

As the nation continues to combat the COVID-19 pandemic, cancer has not stopped, and remains the second leading cause of death in the United States. To better prevent, detect, and treat cancers, Congress must act swiftly to increase investments in cancer research and prevention. A full-year continuing resolution or funding lapse would threaten our nation's research enterprise and stall medical breakthroughs that could benefit the lives of millions of patients with cancer and survivors. The AACR urges congressional negotiators to come to the table and agree to Fiscal Year 2022 allocations that would support robust and sustained funding for cancer research and prevention.

ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN UNIVERSITIES

Higher education, research, and innovation play integral roles in our nation's competitiveness, security, health, and ability to combat and overcome the pandemic. Our nation cannot afford continued inaction on FY22 appropriations. In the absence of final appropriations, federal agencies postpone research award decisions and prepare for potential lapses in funding. Continuing resolutions (CRs) slow the pace of scientific innovation and create funding uncertainty for researchers and students. It is vital that Congress complete appropriations this year and avoid serial stop-gap measures and a year-long CR.

COALITION ON HUMAN NEEDS

The nation's recovery depends on strengthening a host of domestic programs that have been allowed to shrink for years, not just to get to where they had been before, but to respond to needs far greater because of the pandemic and its global economic dislocations. A long-term continuing resolution would be a severe failure to address these needs. We strongly urge you to enact omnibus appropriations legislation including all twelve bills as soon as possible.

JOINT COALITION OF THE CAMPAIGN TO INVEST IN AMERICAN'S WORKFORCE, THE COALITION FOR HEALTH FUNDING, THE COALITION ON HUMAN NEEDS, AND THE COMMITTEE FOR EDUCATION FUNDING

The bill passed by the House this summer and the bill proposed by the Senate Appropriations Committee this fall provide vital increased funding for the programs and services that have a profound impact on health and well-being, child development, educational and skills attainment, employment, and productivity. Failing to enact the FY 2022 bill and relying on continuing resolutions (CRs) would be a grave missed opportunity to improve the lives of all Americans.

NATIONAL DEFENSE INDUSTRIAL ASSOCIATION

We cannot stress enough the importance of the defense appropriations bill to our national security and to a healthy defense industrial base. The limbo caused under CRs wastes precious time and money our nation cannot recover. Delayed new starts and initiatives place a strain on companies and their workforce, particularly as they recalibrate operations to a post-pandemic normal. Our nation's competitors face no similar challenges putting us at a competitive disadvantage, particularly with emerging technologies, and place our supply chains at increasing risk, something we cannot afford after the nearly two years of pandemic impacts.

VETERANS SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS, INCLUDING THE AMERICAN LEGION AND THE VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

A full-year continuing resolution could result in an estimated \$7 billion shortfall in

funding for mandatory compensation and pension benefits, in large part due to an increased number of benefit claims resulting from congressional approval of new diseases related to Agent Orange exposure for Vietnam veterans . . . we call on you to reject consideration of a full-year continuing resolution that would reduce veterans' funding below what has already been approved in an overwhelming bipartisan vote.

NOVEMBER 10, 2021.

Hon. CHARLES E. SCHUMER,
Majority Leader, U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.

Hon. MITCH MCCONNELL,
Minority Leader, U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MAJORITY LEADER SCHUMER AND MINORITY LEADER MCCONNELL: On behalf of the millions of veterans our organizations represent, we write to express serious concerns about reports that the Senate is considering approving a full-year continuing resolution to fund the federal government for the remainder of fiscal year 2022, which would have significant negative consequences for veterans, their families, caregivers and survivors. Therefore, we are asking that you work together to ensure that veterans programs, benefits and medical services receive the full level of funding for fiscal year 2022 that was approved with strong bipartisan support (25 to 5) by the Senate Appropriations Committee in August.

As you know, Congress approved and the President signed a short-term continuing resolution (Public Law 117-43) on September 30th to fund the federal government through December 3, 2021, extending funding at the levels previously enacted in fiscal year 2021 appropriations legislation. Funding for Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) medical care and benefit payments for fiscal year 2022 was previously approved in December 2020 as advance appropriations in Division J (Military Construction and Veterans Affairs) of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021, Public Law 116-260. However, the advance appropriations process only works properly if funding levels are adjusted to address increased demand for benefits and services as part of the following year's regular appropriations process, as is necessary for fiscal year 2022. Further, if Congress passes a full-year continuing resolution, all other programs, services and benefits would remain funded at fiscal year 2021 levels, which would fall short of the anticipated needs.

For example, a full-year continuing resolution could result in an estimated \$7 billion shortfall in funding for mandatory compensation and pension benefits, in large part due to an increased number of benefit claims resulting from congressional approval of new diseases related to Agent Orange exposure for Vietnam veterans.

In addition, the time it takes to process these and other claims for benefits would be significantly increased without the \$300 million increase for the Veterans Benefits Administration approved by the Senate Appropriations Committee. Similarly, reductions from the Committee-approved levels for the Board of Veterans' Appeals and the National Cemetery Administration would negatively impact veterans and their survivors seeking their services and benefits.

Enacting a full-year continuing resolution would also negatively hamper veterans' ability to receive timely medical care absent the \$3.3 billion increase for Veterans Medical Community Care approved by the Senate Committee. VA's critical Medical and Prosthetic Research programs would be cut by \$67 million and funding to support VA's health care infrastructure would be cut \$450 million below the levels approved by the

Committee if Congress passes a full-year continuing resolution.

As leaders of the Senate, we call on you to reject consideration of a full-year continuing resolution that would reduce veterans' funding below what has already been approved in an overwhelming bipartisan vote of the Senate Appropriations Committee. Instead, we ask that you use your influence to ensure that the Senate completes consideration of the fiscal year 2022 appropriations so that veterans, their families, caregivers and survivors have timely access to all the benefits, services and medical care they have earned.

Respectfully,

LAWRENCE W. MONTREUIL,
National Legislative
Director, The American
Legion.

TOM PORTER,
Executive Vice President,
Government Affairs, Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America.

HEATHER ANSLEY, ESQ.,
MSW,
Associate Executive Director of Government Relations, Paralyzed Veterans of America.

PATRICK MURRAY,
Director, National Legislative Service,
Veterans of Foreign Wars.

JOY J. ILEM,
National Legislative Director, DAV (Disabled American Veterans).

DAN MERRY,
Colonel, USAF (Ret), Vice President for Government Relations, Military Officers Association of America.

SHARON HODGE,
Director for Policy and Government Affairs,
Vietnam Veterans of America.

BRIAN DEMPSEY,
Government Affairs Director, Wounded Warrior Project.

ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN
UNIVERSITIES,
November 18, 2021.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

Hon. KEVIN MCCARTHY,
Minority Leader, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

Hon. CHARLES SCHUMER,
Majority Leader, U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.

Hon. MITCH MCCONNELL,
Minority Leader, U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER PELOSI AND LEADERS SCHUMER, MCCARTHY, AND MCCONNELL: I write on behalf of America's leading research universities to urge you to reach a bipartisan agreement to complete the FY22 appropriations process before the end of the year.

Recent suggestions that final FY22 appropriations could be delayed until March 2022 are distressing. Higher education, research, and innovation play integral roles in our nation's competitiveness, security, health, and ability to combat and overcome the pandemic. Our nation cannot afford continued

inaction on FY22 appropriations. In the absence of final appropriations, federal agencies postpone research award decisions and prepare for potential lapses in funding. Continuing resolutions (CRs) slow the pace of scientific innovation and create funding uncertainty for researchers and students. It is vital that Congress complete appropriations this year and avoid serial stop-gap measures and a year-long CR.

Congress has made good progress in determining FY22 funding levels, and now it is time to finish the job. Both the House and Senate bills include important increases to federal investments in student aid and research that would help bolster our nation's economic competitiveness and standing as the global innovation leader. For example, the bills propose a \$400 increase to the Pell Grant maximum award and increased funding for other student aid programs, the National Institutes of Health, the National Science Foundation, the Department of Energy's Office of Science, and other critical research agencies. AAU supports the proposed increases, and we stand ready to reinforce efforts to ensure final passage.

We urge you to complete FY22 appropriations before the end of the year and to approve the highest levels of funding proposed for student aid and research programs in the House and Senate bills. Thank you for considering our views.

Sincerely,

BARBARA R. SNYDER,
President.

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER), the majority leader of the House of Representatives.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from Connecticut has 30 seconds remaining.

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Speaker, I yield 30 seconds to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER).

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, I thank the chair of the Appropriations Committee for yielding me 1 minute.

I rise to say, of course, everybody is going to vote for this bill. I wish I believed that.

Madam Speaker, this bill is a demonstration of the failure of 535 adults elected by their fellow citizens to act responsibly. Obviously, of those 535, a number have acted responsibly, have worked to get the job done.

There are really only 12 bills that need to pass the Congress. There are many other bills that are important bills and should pass the Congress that I voted for and make life better for America.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. HOYER. How is that?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from Connecticut had 30 seconds remaining.

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER).

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman, who is my friend, and I thank him for that.

As I was saying, this is a failure. We knew that these 12 bills have to pass.

Why? Because if they do not, government shuts down. It stops serving the American people. It stops maintaining security and health and welfare of our people. So we know these bills have to pass.

But notwithstanding that, year after year after year, we come to this point where we are adopting a CR. It is really a CI, congressional irresponsibility.

Now let me say that I generally speak of the Congress, but very frankly, Madam Speaker, we have exercised our responsibility in this House. We passed 9 of the 12 appropriation bills and sent them to the Senate.

□ 1615

The Senate, Madam Speaker, has not sent a single bill to the House, not passed a single appropriations bill through the United States Senate. They have passed through some in committee.

I heard my friend TOM COLE speaking earlier on the rule. He is my friend, and he is a Member I respect. He is a member of the Appropriations Committee and the Rules Committee. He is a Member who respects this institution. But I disagree with him very much about why we are at a CR. We passed overwhelmingly 75 percent of the appropriation bills before August 1 and sent them to the Senate. They have neither acted on those bills nor have they acted on their own bills and asked to go to conference.

So we find ourselves at the 11th hour, as we did on September 30—although we passed the CR a little before September 30—without having funded the government.

The gentleman referred to the fact that we control both Houses. Frankly, nobody controls the United States Senate. We are in the majority by one. But, unfortunately, in the United States Senate, you need not a majority; you need a supermajority. So the minority can defeat the majority.

The minority can defeat the majority in the United States Senate. That is an appalling place for our democracy to be. I have written an op-ed in Time magazine on that issue, and it has been distributed to many Members.

Mr. COLE made an assessment about why the CR is coming to the floor today with just hours to go before it expires. His assessment was not correct. The reason we have not gotten, as the gentlewoman has pointed out, to even the opportunity to discuss a resolution of the differences between the House and the Senate on spending levels and the objects of that spending is because Senate Republicans have refused to negotiate and made as a condition precedent—as we lawyers say, something that has to happen before you do something else—that we resolve all the riders.

Now, for any of us who have been involved in the appropriation process for any period of time, the riders are almost always the last items to be resolved, invariably. I served as an active

member of the Appropriations Committee for 23 years, and for the last 16 years, I have been very much involved in working with the Appropriations Committee to get these bills passed.

Because of the refusal to even sit down and determine how much money we will spend overall, which is called in our jargon 302(a) numbers, the chairman has been unable to get to a discussion of the differences so that they could be resolved. If you can't discuss, you can't resolve.

So for Mr. COLE, frankly, to have intimated that somehow it was the Democrats that couldn't do it, it takes two to tango, and frankly, one of the partners in the Senate doesn't want to tango until something happens that almost always happens at the end.

The timing for the consideration of this CR resulted not from the majority's focus on passing critical legislation to help the American people get ahead, the Build Back Better Act, the infrastructure bill which, by the way, only 13 Republicans voted for, but my speculation is at least half of them are going to take credit for what was done in that bill, maybe all of them. It is as a result, this failure, of the minority's determination to slow down the work of Congress so that such legislation is delayed.

As a matter of fact, the minority leader of the United States Senate said exactly that. He said that he would not consider negotiating on the CR until Build Back Better was done, which means he is prepared to shut down the government. I think that is probably not true. I don't think he wants to shut down the government. I hope he doesn't want to shut down the government.

He wants to gum up the works on Build Back Better. I get that. He is opposed to it. He doesn't like it. He thinks it is the wrong priorities. That is an honest position to take. I think it is incorrect, but it is honest. But don't do it by playing games with the appropriation process.

In my view, the Senate treats the appropriation process as a back-burner issue. When we get to it, we will get to it, but we have a lot of other things we want to do first. For the last 10, 11 months, that is what the case has been.

To dissemble and derail the legislative process using every tool available to them to prohibit Congress from doing exactly what the American people are looking for us to do is not responsible. How sad. How shameful that reality is.

I agree that it is unfortunate that we have to take up another stopgap measure this week to keep this government operating. If it were based upon whether this is the right thing to do in terms of substance, I would vote "no." But it absolutely is the right thing to do in terms of process.

But the chair is absolutely right; we need to pass an omnibus. I would hope that every Republican after, hopefully, passing this piece of legislation today

or tomorrow will then address how we are going to have an omnibus, how we are going to deal with the problems, how we are going to give the government agencies that which they need to meet new challenges that were not available to us a year ago and so they could not be addressed.

It is extremely disappointing that Senate Republicans are blocking progress toward full-year appropriations that will enable our government to serve the American people. I happen to believe that the ranking member, Senator SHELBY, wants to see an omnibus passed. I believe that. But I believe the tactics of the Republican leadership in the Senate are not to do so until they get what they want.

That is dangerous for our country, and it is extraordinarily inefficient for the 2 million people who are waiting to see what we are doing. That is what they are focused on, not the job, not the priorities, not the dangers, but what is happening: Is the government going to fund us on Saturday? On Saturday, are we going to be able to operate?

There are few certainties in Washington, Madam Speaker, but one of them has now become that Congress will not complete the appropriation process by the start of the fiscal year. I have tried to make that happen every year that I have been majority leader. The chair of this committee, ROSA DELAUNO, did everything she could to pass 12 appropriation bills by the August 1 deadline. If we had had any help on the Republican side, we would have done it—any help.

Now, we have only a four-vote margin over here, so on some of the bills that were more controversial for one reason or another, we needed some help. I will remind my friend—and I dearly thank him for yielding me the time. He knew it was going to be a somewhat extended discussion, but I thank him for that. It reflects back to how this institution used to operate, frankly, and I appreciate it. But he knows that when the Republican side was in the majority, and they could not get the majority of votes on fiscal issues, they looked to this side of the aisle. We always helped and made it happen; maybe not 100 percent of us, but a large enough amount so that the important fiscal issues would be dealt with and passed.

Only six times over the past 20 years has Congress come within 3 months of this deadline, the end of the fiscal year.

Now, I could go on for some period of time talking about Mr. COLE. He said the majority wasn't serious. We are very serious. We have been the ones that opened up government after it was shut down for some 35 days when we took over from the Republican leadership two Congresses ago. We can do better.

For Mr. COLE to say that we were spending time pandering to the American people by passing the Build Back Better Act or passing the bipartisan in-

frastructure act, I hope he reflects upon that statement and says, no, that was wrong. Yes, we focused on Build Back Better because we think it is important for the American people, but we had already passed the appropriation bills. They were already in the Senate ready to be acted upon, and we were ready to act in response.

Madam Speaker, this is the result of the inability of the Congress to work. The House worked. Republicans and Democrats, this House can work. Maybe sometimes I don't agree with what it does, and maybe sometimes my colleagues on the other side of the aisle don't agree with what it does, but it works. It can pass legislation.

The Senate is not working, and it is hurting our country.

We should all resolve, however we vote on this CR, we should all resolve, hopefully, all of us—and I am a good friend of the ranking member, Ms. GRANGER. I think she wants to get this bill done. By “this bill,” I am talking about omnibus, all 12 appropriation bills. I think she wants to get that done. But I am not sure that she has been empowered by her leadership to do so.

We can have differences, and we have a way of resolving those differences. Ultimately, we vote. But if we keep putting it off, putting it off, putting it off, it undermines the credibility of the United States, the confidence that people have in our country, the confidence that our workers have in our stewardship of the leadership of this country, and the people's confidence. So we ought to resolve that we stop this.

The Republicans, through Mr. COLE, have talked about a motion to recommit. It mirrors the unserious nature of their opposition. Why do I say that? Because their motion to recommit has nothing to do with the funding of government. It has nothing to do with our responsibility to ensure that government continues to work on behalf of the American people. Rather, it would send this bill back to committee and would not possibly be able to act in a timely fashion that some 30 hours from now, I guess 31½ hours from now, government would shut down.

I would have understood perhaps a motion that would have said we are going to fund government at this level, or we are going to fund this objective and not that objective, but that is not what it did, totally irrelevant to the appropriations process bill. They may think it is an important issue. I get that. But it doesn't have anything to do with this issue.

Very frankly, that is exactly what the Senate has been doing on the Republican side, irrelevant issues, not the appropriations process. So we find ourselves now at a time when we must pass this CR.

I am not in love with this CR, but in a world of alternatives, there should be none for any of us. All of us should have the courage to be responsible. Madam Speaker, all of us should have

the courage to say there is no alternative, and after we pass this bill and the Senate passes this bill, get down to the work between now and February 18.

I would hope we could pass an omnibus appropriation bill including the work of the gentleman from California, the gentlewoman from Connecticut, and all the rest of us on the priorities that we want to pursue as an American people and the investments that we want to make in achieving those objectives. I hope we do that.

□ 1630

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume. I would like to remind my friends in the majority, we don't run the House, we don't run the White House, and God only knows who runs the Senate.

But I do know this, that the gentleman that the majority leader referred to, the ranking minority member in the United States Senate certainly wants an appropriation bill, but I think he has made it quite clear, and I think we have made it quite clear—the gentleman referred to Mr. COLE—I think he has made it quite clear that the legacy riders, which need to come back in, the poison pills have got to go out, the dollars, by the way, which we have not agreed to in defense spending because, as you know, the Committee on Appropriations did not agree to a number that passed in the United States House of Representatives. It did pass by the authorization committee at a higher number, and in the Senate by a higher number, both Republicans and Democrats.

So I think we recognize that defense number has to go up and something else has to come down. If those things happen, I think we can have a serious negotiation. Until then, I am afraid we are going to be continuing to operate on a continuing resolution.

Madam Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentlewoman from Georgia (Mrs. GREENE).

Mrs. GREENE of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise in opposition to the CR. The American people are \$29 trillion in debt, thanks to Congress. And this Congress wants to borrow more money and more time to figure out how to run the government and how to pay for it. That is an outrage to the American people.

You want to talk about courage and responsibility? Do you know what courage and responsibility is?

It is learning how to manage the people's money. The people work hard every single day. They have to pay the taxes. And then they have to trust this House, this body, and the Senate to create a budget, but every single time, it is the budget that puts them further and further in debt.

It is the audacity of Congress to borrow more money and not be able to come up with a budget that makes sense and that we can pay for.

What an outrage. What an irresponsibility. That isn't courage. That is not responsibility. That is out-of-control behavior that this Congress needs to rein in. This government should be shut down. You want to know why it should be shut down? Because the people in here cannot control themselves. The people in here do not understand how to balance a checkbook. And the people in here do not deserve the responsibility on how to spend the American people's money.

Madam Speaker, \$29 trillion. Shut it down. Do not pass the CR. Shut it down.

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Madam Speaker, as I said before, the fiscal year 2022 bills were drafted with little input from Republicans. And since then, we have not been able to find a path forward.

In years past, we have had an agreement in place that allowed us to negotiate final bills quickly. I am concerned that we cannot have a meaningful discussion on full-year appropriations without a similar understanding going in.

Madam Speaker, that is why, in a few moments, I will offer a motion to recommit. My motion would simply send this bill back to committee so that we can come to agreement on a process for addressing full-year bills.

Madam Speaker, to return to our strong bipartisan traditions, I urge support for the motion, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 829, the previous question is ordered on the bill.

The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

MOTION TO RECOMMIT

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I have a motion to recommit at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the motion to recommit.

The Clerk read as follows:

Mr. Calvert moves to recommit the bill, H.R. 6119, to the Committee on Appropriations.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XIX, the previous question is ordered on the motion to recommit.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 3(s) of House Resolution 8, the yeas and nays are ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 211, nays 219, not voting 3, as follows:

[Roll No. 398]

YEAS—211

Aderholt	Gimenez	Moolenaar
Allen	Gohmert	Mooney
Amodei	Gonzales, Tony	Moore (AL)
Armstrong	Gonzalez (OH)	Moore (UT)
Arrington	Good (VA)	Mullin
Babin	Gooden (TX)	Murphy (NC)
Bacon	Gosar	Nehls
Baird	Granger	Newhouse
Balderson	Graves (LA)	Norman
Banks	Graves (MO)	Nunes
Barr	Green (TN)	Obernolte
Bentz	Greene (GA)	Owens
Bergman	Griffith	Palazzo
Bice (OK)	Grothman	Palmer
Biggs	Guest	Pence
Billirakis	Guthrie	Perry
Bishop (NC)	Hagedorn	Pfluger
Boebert	Harris	Posey
Bost	Harshbarger	Reed
Brady	Hern	Reschenthaler
Brooks	Herrell	Rice (SC)
Buchanan	Herrera Beutler	Rodgers (WA)
Buck	Hice (GA)	Rogers (AL)
Bucshon	Higgins (LA)	Rogers (KY)
Budd	Hill	Rose
Burchett	Hinson	Rosendale
Burgess	Hollingsworth	Rouzer
Calvert	Hudson	Roy
Cammack	Huizenga	Rutherford
Carey	Issa	Salazar
Carl	Jackson	Scalise
Carter (GA)	Jacobs (NY)	Schweikert
Carter (TX)	Johnson (LA)	Scott, Austin
Cawthorn	Johnson (OH)	Sessions
Chabot	Johnson (SD)	Simpson
Cheney	Jordan	Smith (MO)
Cline	Joyce (OH)	Smith (NE)
Cloud	Joyce (PA)	Smith (NJ)
Clyde	Katko	Smucker
Cole	Keller	Spartz
Comer	Kelly (MS)	Stauber
Crawford	Kelly (PA)	Steel
Crenshaw	Kim (CA)	Stefanik
Curtis	Kinzinger	Steil
Davidson	Kustoff	Steube
Davis, Rodney	LaHood	Stewart
DesJarlais	Lamborn	Taylor
Diaz-Balart	Latta	Tenney
Donalds	LaTurner	Thompson (PA)
Duncan	Lesko	Tiffany
Dunn	Letlow	Timmons
Ellzey	Long	Turner
Emmer	Loudermilk	Upton
Estes	Lucas	Valadao
Fallon	Luetkemeyer	Van Drew
Feenstra	Mace	Van Duyne
Ferguson	Malliotakis	Wagner
Fischbach	Mann	Walberg
Fitzgerald	Massie	Walorski
Fitzpatrick	Mast	Waltz
Fleischmann	McCarthy	Weber (TX)
Fortenberry	McCaul	Webster (FL)
Fox	McClain	Wenstrup
Franklin, C.	McClintock	Westerman
Scott	McHenry	Williams (TX)
Fulcher	McKinley	Wilson (SC)
Gaetz	Meijer	Wittman
Gallagher	Meuser	Womack
Garbarino	Miller (IL)	Young
Garcia (CA)	Miller (WV)	Zeldin
Gibbs	Miller-Meeks	

NAYS—219

Adams	Carbajal	Crow
Aguilar	Cardenas	Cuellar
Allred	Carson	Davids (KS)
Auchincloss	Carter (LA)	Davis, Danny K.
Axne	Cartwright	Dean
Barragán	Case	DeFazio
Beatty	Casten	DeGette
Bera	Castor (FL)	DeLauro
Beyer	Castro (TX)	DelBene
Bishop (GA)	Chu	Delgado
Blumenauer	Cicilline	Demings
Blunt Rochester	Clark (MA)	DeSaulnier
Bonamici	Clarke (NY)	Deutch
Bourdeaux	Cleaver	Dingell
Bowman	Clyburn	Doggett
Boyle, Brendan	Cohen	Doyle, Michael
F.	Connolly	F.
Brown (MD)	Cooper	Escobar
Brown (OH)	Correa	Eshoo
Brownley	Costa	Espallat
Bush	Courtney	Evens
Bustos	Craig	Lesko (Miller
Butterfield	Crist	(WV))
		Sires (Pallone)
		Stewart (Owens)

Frankel, Lois	Lowenthal	Ryan
Gallego	Luria	Sánchez
Garamendi	Lynch	Sarbanes
Garcia (IL)	Malinowski	Scanlon
Garcia (TX)	Maloney,	Shackowsky
Golden	Carolyn B.	Schiff
Gomez	Maloney, Sean	Schneider
Gonzalez,	Manning	Schrader
Vicente	Matsui	Schrier
Gottheimer	McBath	Scott (VA)
Green, Al (TX)	McCollum	Scott, David
Grijalva	McEachin	Sewell
Harder (CA)	McGovern	Sherman
Hayes	McNerney	Sherrill
Higgins (NY)	Meeks	Sires
Himes	Meng	Slotkin
Horsford	Mfume	Smith (WA)
Houlahan	Moore (WI)	Soto
Hoyer	Morelle	Spanberger
Huffman	Moulton	Speier
Jackson Lee	Mrvan	Stansbury
Jacobs (CA)	Murphy (FL)	Stanton
Jayapal	Nadler	Stevens
Jeffries	Napolitano	Strickland
Johnson (GA)	Neal	Suozi
Johnson (TX)	Neguse	Swalwell
Jones	Newman	Takano
Kahele	Norcross	Thompson (CA)
Kaptur	O'Halleran	Thompson (MS)
Keating	Ocasio-Cortez	Titus
Kelly (IL)	Omar	Tlaib
Khanna	Pallone	Tonko
Kildee	Panetta	Torres (CA)
Kilmer	Pappas	Torres (NY)
Kim (NJ)	Pascarella	Trahan
Kind	Payne	Trone
Kirkpatrick	Perlmutter	Underwood
Krishnamoorthi	Peters	Vargas
Kuster	Phillips	Veasey
Lamb	Pingree	Vela
Langevin	Pocan	Velázquez
Larsen (WA)	Porter	Wasserman
Larson (CT)	Pressley	Schultz
Lawrence	Price (NC)	Waters
Lawson (FL)	Quigley	Watson Coleman
Lee (CA)	Raskin	Welch
Lee (NV)	Rice (NY)	Wexton
Leger Fernandez	Ross	Wild
Levin (CA)	Roybal-Allard	Williams (GA)
Levin (MI)	Ruiz	Wilson (FL)
Lieu	Ruppersberger	Yarmuth
Lofgren	Rush	

NOT VOTING—3

Bass	Hartzler	LaMalfa
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□ 1710

Messrs. DELGADO, QUIGLEY, CASE, LARSON of Connecticut, CORREA, and TORRES of New York changed their vote from "yea" to "nay."

Messrs. ALLEN and WALBERG changed their vote from "nay" to "yea."

So the motion to recommit was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Stated for:

Mrs. HARTZLER. Madam Speaker, on Thursday, December 2, 2021, I was unable to vote on Roll Call No. 398. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows: YEA on Roll Call No. 398.

MEMBERS RECORDED PURSUANT TO HOUSE RESOLUTION 8, 117TH CONGRESS

Adams (Brown	Fulcher (Johnson	Moore (UT)
(MD))	(OH))	(Owens)
Butterfield	Garcia (TX)	Palazzo
(Ryan)	(Jeffries)	(Fleischmann)
Cardenas (Soto)	Green (TX)	Payne (Pallone)
Cawthorn (Nehls)	(Cuellar)	Porter (Wexton)
Crist	Hagedorn	Posey
(Wasserman	(Moolenaar)	(Cammack)
Schultz)	Kildee (Ryan)	Reed (Kelly
Curtis (Meijer)	Lawrence	(PA))
DeFazio	(Johnson (GA))	Reschenthaler
(Carbajal)	Lawson (FL)	(Meuser)
Donalds	(Evans)	Ruiz (Aguilar)
(McClain)	Lesko (Miller	Rush (Quigley)
Frankel, Lois	(WV))	Sires (Pallone)
(Kuster)	Meng (Kuster)	Stewart (Owens)

Swalwell (Gomez)
Takano (Chu)

Underwood (Casten)
Vela (Gomez)

Watson Coleman (Pallone)
Wilson (FL) (Hayes)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on passage of the bill.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 3(s) of House Resolution 8, the yeas and nays are ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 221, nays 212, not voting 0, as follows:

[Roll No. 399]

YEAS—221

Adams	Garcia (TX)	Neguse
Aguilar	Golden	Newman
Allred	Gomez	Norcross
Auchincloss	Gonzalez,	O'Halleran
Axne	Vicente	Ocasio-Cortez
Barragán	Gottheimer	Omar
Bass	Green, Al (TX)	Pallone
Beatty	Grijalva	Panetta
Bera	Harder (CA)	Pappas
Beyer	Hayes	Pascarell
Bishop (GA)	Higgins (NY)	Payne
Blumenauer	Himes	Perlmutter
Blunt Rochester	Horsford	Peters
Bonamici	Houlihan	Phillips
Bourdeaux	Hoyer	Pingree
Bowman	Huffman	Pocan
Boyle, Brendan F.	Jackson Lee	Porter
Brown (MD)	Jacobs (CA)	Pressley
Brown (OH)	Jayapal	Price (NC)
Brownley	Jeffries	Quigley
Bush	Johnson (GA)	Raskin
Bustos	Johnson (TX)	Rice (NY)
Butterfield	Jones	Ross
Carbajal	Kahele	Roybal-Allard
Cárdenas	Kaptur	Ruiz
Carson	Keating	Ruppersberger
Carter (LA)	Kelly (IL)	Rush
Cartwright	Khanna	Ryan
Case	Kildee	Sánchez
Casten	Kilmer	Sarbanes
Castor (FL)	Kim (NJ)	Scanlon
Castro (TX)	Kind	Schakowsky
Chu	Kinzinger	Schiff
Ciilline	Kirkpatrick	Schneider
Clark (MA)	Krishnamoorthi	Schrader
Clarke (NY)	Kuster	Schrier
Cleaver	Lamb	Scott (VA)
Clyburn	Langevin	Scott, David
Cohen	Larsen (WA)	Sewell
Connolly	Larson (CT)	Sherman
Cooper	Lawrence	Sherrill
Correa	Lawson (FL)	Sires
Costa	Lee (CA)	Slotkin
Courtney	Lee (NV)	Smith (WA)
Craig	Leger Fernandez	Soto
Crist	Levin (CA)	Smith (MI)
Crow	Levin (MI)	Spanberger
Cuellar	Lieu	Speier
Davids (KS)	Lofgren	Stansbury
Davis, Danny K.	Lowenthal	Stanton
Dean	Luria	Stevens
DeFazio	Lynch	Strickland
DeGette	Malinowski	Suozzi
DeLauro	Maloney,	Swalwell
DeBene	Carolyn B.	Takano
Delgado	Maloney, Sean	Thompson (CA)
Demings	Manning	Thompson (MS)
DeSaulnier	Matsui	Titus
Deutch	McBath	Tlaib
Dingell	McCollum	Tonko
Doggett	McEachin	Torres (CA)
Doyle, Michael F.	McGovern	Torres (NY)
Escobar	McNerney	Trahan
Eshoo	Meeks	Trone
Españat	Meng	Underwood
Evans	Mfume	Vargas
Fletcher	Moore (WI)	Veasey
Foster	Morelle	Vela
Frankel, Lois	Moulton	Velázquez
Gallego	Mirman	Wasserman
Garamendi	Murphy (FL)	Butterfield
Garcia (IL)	Nadler	(Ryan)
	Napolitano	Schultz
	Neal	Waters
		Watson Coleman

Welch
Wexton

Williams (GA)

NAYS—212

Aderholt	Gimenez	Miller-Meeks
Allen	Gohmert	Moolenaar
Amodei	Gonzales, Tony	Mooney
Armstrong	Gonzalez (OH)	Moore (AL)
Arrington	Good (VA)	Moore (UT)
Babin	Gooden (TX)	Mullin
Bacon	Gosar	Murphy (NC)
Baird	Granger	Nehls
Balderson	Graves (LA)	Newhouse
Banks	Graves (MO)	Norman
Barr	Green (TN)	Nunes
Bentz	Greene (GA)	Obernolte
Bergman	Griffith	Owens
Bice (OK)	Grothman	Palazzo
Biggs	Guest	Palmer
Bilirakis	Guthrie	Pence
Bishop (NC)	Hagedorn	Perry
Boebert	Harris	Pfleger
Bost	Harshbarger	Posey
Brady	Hartzler	Reed
Brooks	Hern	Reschenthaler
Buchanan	Herrell	Rice (SC)
Buck	Herrera Beutler	Rodgers (WA)
Bucshon	Hice (GA)	Rogers (AL)
Budd	Higgins (LA)	Rogers (KY)
Burchett	Hill	Rose
Burgess	Hinson	Rosendale
Calvert	Hollingsworth	Rouzer
Cammack	Hudson	Roy
Carey	Huizenga	Rutherford
Carl	Issa	Salazar
Carter (GA)	Jackson	Scalise
Carter (TX)	Jacobs (NY)	Schweikert
Cawthorn	Johnson (LA)	Scott, Austin
Chabot	Johnson (OH)	Sessions
Cheney	Johnson (SD)	Simpson
Cline	Jordan	Smith (MO)
Cloud	Joyce (OH)	Smith (NE)
Clyde	Joyce (PA)	Smith (NJ)
Cole	Katko	Smucker
Comer	Keller	Spartz
Crawford	Kelly (MS)	Staubert
Crenshaw	Kelly (PA)	Steel
Curtis	Kim (CA)	Stefanik
Davidson	Kustoff	Steil
Davis, Rodney	LaHood	Steube
DesJarlais	LaMalfa	Stewart
Diaz-Balart	Lamborn	Taylor
Donalds	Latta	Tenney
Duncan	LaTurner	Thompson (PA)
Dunn	Lesko	Tiffany
Ellzey	Letlow	Timmons
Emmer	Long	Turner
Estes	Loudermilk	Upton
Fallon	Lucas	Valadao
Feenstra	Luettkemeyer	Van Drew
Ferguson	Mace	Van Deyne
Fischbach	Malliotakis	Wagner
Fitzgerald	Mann	Walberg
Fitzpatrick	Massie	Walorski
Fleischmann	Mast	Waltz
Fortenberry	McCarthy	Weber (TX)
Fox	McCaul	Webster (FL)
Franklin, C.	McClain	Wenstrup
Scott	McClintock	Westerman
Fulcher	McHenry	Williams (TX)
Gaetz	McKinley	Wilson (SC)
Gallagher	Meijer	Wittman
Garbarino	Meuser	Womack
Garcia (CA)	Miller (IL)	Young
Gibbs	Miller (WV)	Zeldin

□ 1730

Mr. WITTMAN changed his vote from “yea” to “nay.”

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. DEGETTE). Without objection, a motion to reconsider is laid on the table.

Mr. ROY. Madam Speaker, I object.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Objection is heard.

MEMBERS RECORDED PURSUANT TO HOUSE RESOLUTION 8, 117TH CONGRESS

Adams (Brown (MD))	Cawthorn (Nehls)	DeFazio (Carbajal)
Butterfield (Ryan)	Crist (Wasserman)	Donalds (McClain)
Cárdenas (Soto)	Schultz	
	Curtis (Meijer)	

Frankel, Lois (Kuster)	Lesko (Miller (WV))	Ruiz (Aguilar)
Fulcher (Johnson (OH))	Meng (Kuster)	Rush (Quigley)
Garcia (TX) (Jeffries)	Moore (UT) (Owens)	Sires (Pallone)
Green (TX) (Cuellar)	Palazzo (Fleischmann)	Stewart (Owens)
Hagedorn (Moolenaar)	Payne (Pallone)	Swalwell (Gomez)
Lawrence (Johnson (GA))	Porter (Wexton) (Casten)	Takano (Chu)
Lawson (FL) (Evans)	Posey (Cammack)	Underwood
	Reed (Kelly (PA))	(Casten)
	Reschenthaler (Meuser)	Vela (Gomez)
		Watson Coleman
		(Pallone)
		Wilson (FL) (Hayes)

MOTION TO RECONSIDER

Mr. EVANS. Madam Speaker, I have a motion at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the motion.

The Clerk read as follows:

Mr. Evans moves to reconsider H.R. 6119.

MOTION TO TABLE

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Speaker, I have a motion at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the motion.

The Clerk read as follows:

Ms. DeLauro moves to table the motion to reconsider.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to table.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. ROY. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 3(s) of House Resolution 8, the yeas and nays are ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 217, nays 209, not voting 7, as follows:

[Roll No. 400]

YEAS—217

Adams	Courtney	Hoyer
Aguilar	Craig	Huffman
Allred	Crist	Jackson Lee
Auchincloss	Crow	Jacobs (CA)
Axne	Cuellar	Jayapal
Barragán	Davids (KS)	Jeffries
Bass	Davis, Danny K.	Johnson (GA)
Beatty	Dean	Johnson (TX)
Bera	DeFazio	Jones
Beyer	DeGette	Kahele
Bishop (GA)	DeLauro	Kaptur
Blumenauer	DeBene	Kelly (IL)
Blunt Rochester	Delgado	Khanna
Bonamici	Demings	Kildee
Bourdeaux	DeSaulnier	Kilmer
Bowman	Deutch	Kim (NJ)
Boyle, Brendan F.	Dingell	Kind
Brown (MD)	Doggett	Kirkpatrick
Brown (OH)	Doyle, Michael F.	Krishnamoorthi
Brownley	Escobar	Kuster
Bush	Eshoo	Lamb
Bustos	Españat	Langevin
Butterfield	Evans	Larsen (WA)
Carbajal	Fletcher	Larson (CT)
Cárdenas	Foster	Lawrence
Carson	Frankel, Lois	Lawson (FL)
Carter (LA)	Gallego	Lee (CA)
Cartwright	Garamendi	Lee (NV)
Case	Garcia (IL)	Leger Fernandez
Casten	Garcia (TX)	Levin (CA)
Castor (FL)	Golden	Levin (MI)
Castro (TX)	Gomez	Lieu
Chu	Gonzalez,	Lofgren
Ciilline	Vicente	Lowenthal
Clark (MA)	Gottheimer	Luria
Clarke (NY)	Green, Al (TX)	Lynch
Cleaver	Grijalva	Malinowski
Clyburn	Harder (CA)	Maloney,
Cohen	Hayes	Carolyn B.
Connolly	Higgins (NY)	Maloney, Sean
Cooper	Himes	Manning
Correa	Horsford	Matsui
Costa	Houlihan	McBath
		McCollum

McEachin Price (NC)
McGovern Quigley
McNerney Raskin
Meeks Rice (NY)
Mfume Ross
Moore (WI) Roybal-Allard
Morelle Ruiz
Moulton Ruppertsberger
Mrvan Rush
Murphy (FL) Ryan
Nadler Sánchez
Napolitano Sarbanes
Neal Scanlon
Neguse Schakowsky
Newman Schiff
Norcross Schneider
O'Halleran Schrader
Ocasio-Cortez Schrier
Omar Scott (VA)
Pallone Scott, David
Panetta Sewell
Pappas Sherman
Pascrell Sherrill
Payne Sires
Perlmutter Slotkin
Peters Smith (WA)
Phillips Soto
Pingree Spanberger
Pocan Speier
Pressley Stansbury

NAYS—209

Aderholt Garcia (CA)
Allen Gibbs
Amodei Gimenez
Armstrong Gohmert
Arrington Gonzales, Tony
Babin Gonzalez (OH)
Bacon Good (VA)
Baird Gooden (TX)
Balderson Gosar
Banks Granger
Barr Graves (LA)
Bentz Graves (MO)
Bergman Green (TN)
Bice (OK) Greene (GA)
Biggs Griffith
Bilirakis Grothman
Bishop (NC) Guest
Boebert Guthrie
Bost Hagedorn
Brooks Harris
Buchanan Harshbarger
Buck Hartzler
Bucshon Herrell
Budd Herrera Beutler
Burchett Hice (GA)
Calvert Higgins (LA)
Cammack Hill
Carey Hinson
Carl Hollingsworth
Carter (GA) Hudson
Carter (TX) Huizenga
Cawthorn Issa
Chabot Jackson
Cheney Jacobs (NY)
Cline Johnson (LA)
Cloud Johnson (OH)
Clyde Johnson (SD)
Cole Jordan
Comer Joyce (OH)
Crawford Joyce (PA)
Crenshaw Sessions
Curtis Keller
Davidson Kelly (MS)
Davis, Rodney Kelly (PA)
DesJarlais Kim (CA)
Diaz-Balart Kinzinger
Donalds Kustoff
Duncan LaHood
Dunn LaMalfa
Ellzey Lamborn
Emmer Latta
Estes LaTurner
Fallon Lesko
Feenstra Letlow
Ferguson Long
Fischbach Loudermilk
Fitzgerald Lucas
Fitzpatrick Luetkemeyer
Fleischmann Mace
Fortenberry Malliotakis
Foxy Mann
Franklin, C. Massie
Scott Mast
Fulcher McCarthy
Gaetz McCaul
Gallagher McClain
Garbarino McClintock

Stanton Stevens
Strickland Strickland
Suozi Suozzi
Swalwell Swalwell
Takano Takano
Ruiz Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS) Thompson (MS)
Titus Titus
Tlaib Tlaib
Tonko Tonko
Torres (CA) Torres (CA)
Torres (NY) Torres (NY)
Trahan Trahan
Trone Trone
Underwood Underwood
Vargas Vargas
Veasey Veasey
Vela Vela
Velázquez Velázquez
Wasserman Wasserman
Schultz Schultz
Waters Waters
Watson Coleman Watson Coleman
Welch Welch
Wexton Wexton
Wild Wild
Williams (GA) Williams (GA)
Wilson (FL) Wilson (FL)
Yarmuth Yarmuth

Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westerman

Williams (TX)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman

Womack
Young
Zeldin

NOT VOTING—7

Brady
Burgess
Hern

Keating
Meng
Porter

Spartz

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The **SPEAKER** pro tempore (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining.

□ 1748

Mr. **McCAUL** changed his vote from “yea” to “nay.”

So the motion to table was agreed to. The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Stated for:

Ms. **PORTER**. Madam Speaker, I was unable to vote on the Motion to Table the Republican Motion to Reconsider, H.R. 6119—Further Extending Government Act. Had I been present, I would have voted “yea.”

Stated against:

Mrs. **SPARTZ**. Madam Speaker, I was present but did not realize I was not recorded. I would have voted “nay” on rollcall No. 400.

MEMBERS RECORDED PURSUANT TO HOUSE RESOLUTION 8, 117TH CONGRESS

Adams (Brown (MD))	Green (TX) (Cuellar)	Reed (Kelly (PA))
Butterfield (Ryan)	Hagedorn (Moolenaar)	Reschenthaler (Meuser)
Cárdenas (Soto)	Lawrence (Johnson (GA))	Ruiz (Aguilar)
Cawthorn (Nehls)	Johnson (FL)	Sires (Pallone)
Crist (Wasserman Schultz)	(Evans)	Stewart (Owens)
Curtis (Meijer)	Lesko (Miller (WV))	Swalwell (Gomez)
DeFazio (Carbajal)	Luetkemeyer (Meuser)	Takano (Chu)
Donalds (McClain)	Moore (UT)	Underwood (Casten)
Frankel, Lois (Kuster)	Palazzo (Owens)	Vela (Gomez)
Fulcher (Johnson (OH))	(Fleischmann)	Watson Coleman (Pallone)
Garcia (TX) (Jeffries)	Payne (Pallone)	Wilson (FL) (Hayes)
	Posey (Cammack)	

SAFEGUARD TRIBAL OBJECTS OF PATRIMONY ACT OF 2021

The **SPEAKER** pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2930) to enhance protections of Native American tangible cultural heritage, and for other purposes, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The **SPEAKER** pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Ms. **LEGER FERNANDEZ**) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 364, nays 57, not voting 12, as follows:

[Roll No. 401]

YEAS—364

Adams Axne
Aderholt Bacon
Agullar Baird
Allen Balderson
Allred Barr
Amodei Barragán
Armstrong Bass
Auchincloss Beatty

Bentz Bera
Bergman Beyer
Bice (OK) Bice (OK)
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Blumenauer

Blunt Rochester
Bonamici
Bourdeaux
Bowman
Boyle, Brendan F.
Brown (MD)
Brown (OH)
Brownley
Buchanan
Bucshon
Budd
Bustos
Butterfield
Calvert
Carbajal
Cárdenas
Carey
Carl
Carson
Carter (GA)
Carter (LA)
Cartwright
Case
Casten
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Cawthorn
Chabot
Cheney
Chu
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Cole
Connolly
Cooper
Correa
Costa
Courtney
Craig
Crawford
Crenshaw
Crist
Crow
Cuellar
Curtis
Davids (KS)
Davis, Danny K.
Davis, Rodney
Dean
DeFazio
DeGette
DeLauro
DelBene
Delgado
Demings
DeSaulnier
Deutch
Dingell
Doggett
Donalds
Doyle, Michael F.
Duncan
Dunn
Emmer
Escobar
Eshoo
Espallat
Evans
Ferguson
Fischbach
Fitzpatrick
Fletcher
Fortenberry
Foster
Foxy
Frankel, Lois
Franklin, C.
Scott
Fulcher
Gallagher
Gallego
Garamendi
Garbarino
Garcia (CA)
Garcia (IL)
Garcia (TX)
Gibbs
Gimenez
Gohmert
Golden
Gomez
Gonzales, Tony
Gonzalez (OH)

Gonzalez, Vicente
Gottheimer
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Green, Al (TX)
Griffith
Grijalva
Guest
Guthrie
Hagedorn
Harder (CA)
Hartzler
Hayes
Herrell
Herrera Beutler
Higgins (NY)
Hill
Himes
Hinson
Hollingsworth
Horsford
Houlihan
Hoyer
Hudson
Huffman
Huizenga
Issa
Jackson Lee
Jacobs (CA)
Jacobs (NY)
Jayapal
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (LA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson (SD)
Johnson (TX)
Jones
Joyce (OH)
Joyce (PA)
Kaptur
Katko
Keating
Keller
Kelly (IL)
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
Khanna
Kildee
Kilmer
Kim (CA)
Kim (NJ)
Kind
Kirkpatrick
Krishnamoorthi
Kuster
LaHood
LaMalfa
Lamb
Lamborn
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larsen (CT)
Latta
LaTurner
Lawrence
Lawson (FL)
Lee (CA)
Lee (NV)
Leger Fernandez
Lesko
Letlow
Levin (CA)
Levin (MI)
Lieu
Lofgren
Long
Loudermilk
Lowenthal
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Luria
Lynch
Mace
Malinowski
Malliotakis
Maloney, Sean
Carolyn B.
Maloney, Sean
Manning
Matsui
McBath
McCarthy
McCauley
McClain
McClintock
McCollum
McEachin

McGovern
McHenry
McKinley
McNerney
Meeks
Meijer
Meng
Meuser
Mfume
Miller (WV)
Miller-Meeks
Moolenaar
Mooney
Moore (AL)
Moore (UT)
Moore (WI)
Morelle
Moulton
Mrvan
Mullin
Murphy (FL)
Murphy (NC)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Neguse
Nehls
Newhouse
Newman
Norcross
Nunes
O'Halleran
Oberholte
Ocasio-Cortez
Omar
Owens
Palazzo
Pallone
Palmer
Panetta
Pappas
Pascrell
Payne
Pence
Perlmutter
Peters
Pfluger
Phillips
Pingree
Pocan
Porter
Posey
Pressley
Price (NC)
Quigley
Raskin
Reed
Reschenthaler
Rice (NY)
Rice (SC)
Rodgers (WA)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Ross
Rouzer
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppertsberger
Rush
Rutherford
Ryan
Salazar
Sánchez
Sarbanes
Schalise
Scanlon
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schrader
Schrier
Schweikert
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Sewell
Sherman
Sherrill
Simpson
Slotkin
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (WA)
Smucker
Soto
Spanberger
Spartz

Speier	Titus	Wasserman
Stansbury	Tlaib	Schultz
Stanton	Tonko	Watson Coleman
Stauber	Torres (CA)	Webster (FL)
Steel	Trahan	Wenstrup
Stefanik	Trone	Westerman
Steil	Turner	Wexton
Stevens	Underwood	Wild
Stewart	Upton	Williams (GA)
Strickland	Valadao	Wilson (FL)
Suozi	Vargas	Wilson (SC)
Swalwell	Veasey	Wittman
Takano	Vela	Womack
Thompson (CA)	Velázquez	Young
Thompson (MS)	Walberg	Zeldin
Thompson (PA)	Walorski	
Timmons	Waltz	

NAYS—57

Arrington	Ellzey	Kustoff
Babin	Estes	Mann
Banks	Fallon	Massie
Biggs	Feenstra	Miller (IL)
Bishop (NC)	Fitzgerald	Norman
Boebert	Fleischmann	Perry
Bost	Gaetz	Rose
Brooks	Good (VA)	Rosendale
Buck	Gooden (TX)	Roy
Burchett	Gosar	Sessions
Bush	Granger	Steube
Cammack	Green (TN)	Taylor
Carter (TX)	Greene (GA)	Tenney
Cline	Harris	Tiffany
Cloud	Harshbarger	Torres (NY)
Clyde	Hice (GA)	Van Drew
Comer	Higgins (LA)	Van Dwyne
Davidson	Jackson	Weber (TX)
Diaz-Balart	Jordan	Williams (TX)

NOT VOTING—12

Brady	Hern	Wagner
Burgess	Kahele	Waters
DesJarlais	Kinzinger	Welch
Grothman	Mast	Yarmuth

□ 1805

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated against:

Mr. GROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted “nay” on rollcall No. 401.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. KAHELE. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, December 2, I was not present for Roll Call votes 397 and 401. Had I been present, I would have voted:

Yea on the Table Motion to Reconsider on providing for consideration of H.R. 6119, making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2022, and for other purposes; and Yea on H.R. 2390 the Safeguarding Tribal Objects of Patrimony Act of 2021, as amended.

MEMBERS RECORDED PURSUANT TO HOUSE RESOLUTION 8, 117TH CONGRESS

Adams (Brown)	Green (TX)	Posey
(MD)	(Cuellar)	(Cammack)
Butterfield	Hagedorn	Reed (Kelly)
(Ryan)	(Moolenaar)	(PA)
Cárdenas (Soto)	Lawrence	Reschenthaler
Cawthorn (Nehls)	(Johnson (GA))	(Meuser)
Crist	Lawson (FL)	Ruiz (Aguilar)
(Wasserman)	(Evans)	Rush (Quigley)
Schultz	Lesko (Miller)	Sires (Pallone)
Curtis (Meijer)	(WV)	Stewart (Owens)
DeFazio	Luetkemeyer	Swalwell
(Carbajal)	(Meuser)	(Gomez)
Donalds	Meng (Kuster)	Takano (Chu)
(McClain)	Moore (UT)	Underwood
Frankel, Lois	(Owens)	(Casten)
(Kuster)	Palazzo	Vela (Gomez)
Fulcher (Johnson)	(Fleischmann)	Watson Coleman
(OH)	Payne (Pallone)	(Pallone)
Garcia (TX)	Porter (Wexton)	Wilson (FL)
(Jeffries)		(Hayes)

MOMENT OF SILENCE IN HONOR OF THE VICTIMS OF THE OXFORD HIGH SCHOOL TRAGEDY

(Ms. SLOTKIN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. SLOTKIN. Mr. Speaker, this has been one of the darkest and most painful weeks our State of Michigan has had in recent memory. We stand here, the Michigan delegation of Democrats and Republicans, along with honorary Michiganians, to ask Congress to recognize that pain and to ask Members here to see their own children in the pictures of those who were lost in yet another school shooting.

In less than 5 minutes, the small town of Oxford, Michigan, was changed forever when a gunman opened fire on his fellow high school students.

In that momentary flash, four innocent teenagers, students with their entire lives ahead of them, were taken from us in yet another senseless act of violence.

Hana St. Juliana was an exuberant freshman and a volleyball and basketball player. She babysat for a friend of mine and brought joy to everyone who knew her. She made her high school debut on the basketball team on Monday night. Hana was 14 years old.

Madisyn Baldwin was going to graduate this year, and she had already been accepted to several colleges, some with a full scholarship. She had a younger half-brother and two sisters, and her friends describe her as an artist who loved to draw, read, and write. Madisyn was 17.

Tate Myre was a tight end and running back on the varsity football team and an honor student. There is already a petition circulating to rename Oxford's football stadium in his honor. He was 16 years old.

Justin Shilling was a senior getting ready for life after high school. He was the co-captain of the school's bowling team, and he worked part-time at Anita's Kitchen, a restaurant in nearby Lake Orion. Justin was 17.

Seven others were wounded, and make no mistake, every single student, parent, friend, family member, and community member in the greater area now has wounds that you can't see, the wounds that affect the head and the heart.

Last night, I attended a service at a church where many Oxford families attend. The pastor spoke for many when he asked: “Where do we go with our fears? We feel powerless to prevent this kind of tragedy. We mourn the brokenness of a culture where children kill children.”

Today I ask my colleagues from across the country to join me in a moment of silence to honor the lives of Hana, Madisyn, Tate, and Justin.

I ask you for this moment to put yourself in the shoes of the families in places like Columbine, Sandy Hook, Parkland, Santa Fe, Noblesville, and now Oxford, Michigan.

And I ask you to refuse to be powerless in the powerful body that is the U.S. Congress.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that the House observe a moment of silence in honor of the victims of the Oxford High School tragedy.

LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

(Mr. SCALISE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SCALISE. Madam Speaker, I rise for the purpose of inquiring of the majority leader the schedule for next week. I yield to my friend, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER), to talk about the schedule for next week.

□ 1815

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Madam Speaker, pending Senate passage of the CR tonight without amendment, the House will not be in session tomorrow—I want to reiterate, pending passage of the CR tonight. If the CR is not passed, we will be in session tomorrow at 9.

If the Senate fails to act, as I just said, we will meet at 9 a.m. for legislative business and expect to vote on some of the postponed suspensions. Members are encouraged to keep their schedules flexible as we work to fully fund government and prevent a shutdown at 12 midnight tomorrow night.

Next week, on Monday, pending Senate action on full government funding and H.R. 6119, the Further Extending Government Act, being signed into law, the House is no longer expected to meet. This is a change from our previously announced schedule. We will not be in session Monday, assuming we have funded the government.

On Tuesday, the House will meet at 12 p.m. for morning hour and 2 p.m. for legislative business.

On Wednesday and Thursday, the House will meet at 10 a.m. for morning hour and 12 p.m. for legislative business.

On Friday, the House will meet at 9 a.m. for legislative business, as was previously scheduled.

The House will consider several bills under suspension of the rules. The complete list of suspension bills will be announced by the close of business tomorrow.

Additionally, the House will pass H.R. 4350, the National Defense Authorization Act, again, a second time, to provide our troops with the pay they deserve and our military with the tools it needs to carry out its missions safely and effectively, keep America safe, and keep the peace.

Again, I will reiterate that is the second time we will pass this version. As I understand it, it will be the conference-agreed version of the defense bill. This has been a discussion between the House and the Senate.

The House will also consider H.R. 8363, the Protecting Our Democracy

Act, to reassert Congress' role as a co-equal branch of government by addressing the vulnerabilities exploited by the former President and his enablers to weaken our democracy, undermine the rule of law, and subvert the systems of checks and balances enshrined by the Framers in our Constitution.

The House may also consider legislation to address the debt limit and prevent a manufactured economic catastrophe that would derail our recovery from the pandemic and cause needless suffering to millions of American families.

I would reiterate that while we don't know the exact date at which America will be unable to pay its bills, we will address this next week, hopefully, in a bipartisan fashion.

Moreover, the House will be ready to act on H.R. 5376, the Build Back Better Act, should the Senate amend it and send it back to the House.

Lastly, of course, additional legislative items are possible.

Mr. SCALISE. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for that update. As it relates to tomorrow's schedule, as the gentleman from Maryland said, it could be fluid, depending on how the CR is processed in the Senate. If the CR does not pass the Senate tonight, are there bills that are specifically designated to come up tomorrow, or is that a to-be-determined issue?

Mr. HOYER. We have a list of suspension bills, which has been announced and has been on our calendar for consideration. Those would be the pieces of legislation with which we would deal, pending action by the Senate.

Mr. SCALISE. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for that update.

As it relates to the debt ceiling, we had a discussion a few weeks ago relating to the debt ceiling. Would there be a bipartisan negotiation? We haven't had that so far. Is there anticipation that there would be a plan to try to engage both sides in a negotiation on the debt ceiling, or is this something that we are just going to have to wait to see next week?

Mr. HOYER. Well, I think we will probably have to wait to see exactly what is going to happen. As the gentleman knows, we have passed a debt limit twice through this House. There has been a problem in the Senate, and I would expect Senator SCHUMER and Senator MCCONNELL will be discussing that in the next few days.

Senator MCCONNELL has made it very clear that he thinks that failing to protect the full faith and credit of the United States of America would have dire adverse consequences, so he has made it very clear he thinks we ought not to do that. Senator SCHUMER has done the same.

Essentially, my answer to the gentleman is, we have passed it twice in one form or another, so we can pass it and will pass it once the Senate agrees on a version. The two leaders are discussing that, I am sure. Now, I haven't

talked to either one of them, but that is my premise.

Mr. SCALISE. Well, then we will see what develops from that discussion.

As it relates to the National Defense Authorization Act, and as the gentleman pointed out, we are aware there are bipartisan negotiations between both the House and Senate, Republicans and Democrats.

I share the hope and expectation that they can come to an agreement. There are a few final details that both sides are trying to work out. I think they have already agreed, which we both share, that our troops deserve a pay raise, need a pay raise, and that number has been agreed to.

Hopefully, that is part of this, as well as the proper funding levels for our Nation's defense as we see threats emerging throughout the world. We also know the detriment of not having proper defense funding because they can't enter into the contracts that are necessary.

Both of those conversations seem to be, from what we are hearing, going well. Hopefully, that is a bill that can come to the floor next week, and we can all come together to help pass that.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman for any comments.

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman, and I agree with his comments. It is my understanding, although I haven't talked personally, but it is my understanding that introducing the conference-agreed bill in the House, and passing it through the House will, under Senate procedures, facilitate them resolving this issue, hopefully, in a positive way next week.

Mr. SCALISE. Madam Speaker, there are two specific pieces of legislation I would like to ask the gentleman to look at.

One is, by the end of the year, as you know, there are some potential cuts coming to entities like Medicare if Congress doesn't take action. There is a bipartisan bill that members of the Doctors Caucus and other members of the Committee on Energy and Commerce and other committees of jurisdiction have worked on. It is H.R. 6020. That would stave off those cuts to our healthcare providers.

It would need to be passed by the end of the year—otherwise, those cuts would automatically kick in—if the gentleman could take a look at that bill and see if that is something we could do in a bipartisan way before we leave for the year.

Another would be, you and I have had this conversation successfully on other legislation dealing with ALS. The Steve Gleason Act was one of those; there are others. I have spoken to Steve Gleason recently. There is a piece of legislation that we were able to work on that got out of the Committee on Energy and Commerce unanimously. It is H.R. 3537, the Accelerating Access to Critical Therapies for ALS Act.

I would just ask if the gentleman could look at that bill. It came out unanimously, bipartisan, from the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and it is something that, obviously, would help a lot of people who could use that help.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman.

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, I agree with the gentleman. We have talked to the sponsor, and we have talked to others. I expect this bill to be on the floor next week.

Mr. SCALISE. Well, that would be great news to so many people across the country.

Mr. HOYER. If the gentleman would yield?

Mr. SCALISE. I yield to the gentleman.

Mr. HOYER. With respect to the issues that I think we have broad agreement on, the cliffs that were created on Medicare and sequester are not good policy, and we ought to act on those. We are very seized of that issue, and hopefully, we can resolve something next week.

The gentleman mentions doing it in a bipartisan fashion. The good news is, and I know the gentleman will agree, that earlier this year, we delayed to January 1 of this coming year these items, particularly the 2 percent sequester by a vote of 90-2 in the Senate, meaning only two people voted against it, and in the House, 384. We were unanimous on our side, but you had the overwhelming majority on your side as well. So by 384-38, we extended that.

I am hopeful that we will do that again in a bipartisan way because not to do so, I think, would be very harmful to the medical community, to the country, and, obviously, to patients that are served by the medical community.

I am hopeful that we can resolve that as early as next week.

Mr. SCALISE. Madam Speaker, I share that sentiment the gentleman had, and hopefully, we can achieve those bipartisan victories.

As you mentioned, H.R. 3537 would be a tremendous victory for people who struggle with ALS to continue to seek out new therapies and be able to live their lives in the best way possible. I appreciate the gentleman's past efforts as well as the offer to bring that bill to the floor next week.

Madam Speaker, if the gentleman doesn't have anything else, I thank the gentleman, and I yield back the balance of my time.

OXFORD HIGH SCHOOL SHOOTING

(Mr. LEVIN of Michigan asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LEVIN of Michigan. Madam Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to honor the four students murdered and the teacher and six students injured in the Oxford High School shooting in my home county.

My own daughter was not in school today and will not be tomorrow due to threats of copycat violence. Many school districts across metro Detroit have closed altogether.

This is a terrifying time to be a parent, a school professional, a law enforcement officer, and, Lord knows, a child.

This was the deadliest school shooting since 2018, the year our children rose up and asked us to take action. The House has passed several bills to curb gun violence, yet Congress as a whole has not enacted a single new law for our kids.

This father urges our colleagues in the Senate to act, no more thoughts and prayers, but to act at long last.

I send my deepest condolences to the families and friends of Hana, Tate, Madisyn, and Justin. When we say never again, let's mean it this time.

WARREN COUNTY TAX HOLIDAY

(Mr. CHABOT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CHABOT. Madam Speaker, inflation is at the highest level that we have seen in decades and rising. The cost of buying a home is up. The cost to fill your gas tank is up. The cost to feed your family is up. Even the cost of buying Christmas presents for your children or grandchildren is up.

While the pandemic certainly bears some blame, the failed policies of the Biden administration have made things considerably worse. His administration and his allies here in Congress have spent trillions of dollars that we don't have, which inevitably will lead to higher taxes and higher prices for items that hardworking Americans buy every day.

Despite the bad news nationally, one county in my congressional district actually has good news for its residents. Warren County Commissioners Tom Grossmann, Shannon Jones, and David Young announced recently that they would not be collecting property taxes from their residents this year. The commissioners are able to do this by exercising fiscal responsibility, as we ought to do here in the House, and putting aside money for a rainy day, rather than spending money that they didn't have.

Kudos to the Warren County commissioners for giving their taxpayers a little extra holiday cheer this year.

A DIMINISHED SUPREME COURT

(Mr. COHEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, I mourn the loss of the Supreme Court of the United States of America.

As a lawyer, I have always had respect for the Court as the highest court in the land dispensing justice, but starting with *Bush v. Gore*, it became more political.

In *Shelby v. Holder*, it emasculated the Voting Rights Act, destroying section 5 and taking the basic fundamental principles of democracy away from so many people.

In *Citizens United*, it gave the rich and the powerful more and more money.

And then yesterday, it took away women's right to choose.

To hear some of the arguments from Justice Kavanaugh, to say abortion is not in the Constitution so we should leave it to the States, well, high-speed internet is not in the Constitution either, but the courts can hear cases on that. Nuclear power is not in the Constitution, but the Court will hear cases on that.

To hear Justice Barrett say women can just go a little longer and give birth to those children because there will be somebody there that wants to adopt that child, deciding for the mothers that they will have to bear that child might cost them their life. Childbearing is not without risk and takes them away from other things.

Unfortunately, the Court is very diminished.

□ 1830

MANIPULATION OF GAS PRICES

(Mr. FITZGERALD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FITZGERALD. Madam Speaker, the Biden administration's energy agenda is a disaster. The President's decision to cancel the Keystone XL pipeline cost hundreds of jobs in Wisconsin and undermined our Nation's energy independence, and his policies have made energy prices soar.

As a result, the American people are paying the price at the gas pump. Part of my district, the Fifth Congressional District in southeastern Wisconsin, is an EPA-designated ozone nonattainment zone, another contributor to the very high gas prices that we are seeing.

This designation requires area gas stations to use more expensive, reformulated gasoline. The increased cost of the reformulated gas is passed on to consumers, resulting in gas prices 10 to 15 cents higher in some counties in my district, compared to the county right next to it.

The irony is that President Biden is blaming oil and gas companies for manipulating gas prices and is encouraging the FTC to investigate. In reality, it is the administration's old, failed policies that are responsible for the manipulation of the gas prices. The truth is Americans cannot afford this way of life.

MATERNAL MORTALITY RATES AMONG BLACK WOMEN

(Mr. BOWMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BOWMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today because the maternal health crisis in this country is dire, with the United States being the only developed country in the world experiencing a rise in maternal mortality rates.

It is even more dire for Black women, who are three to four times more likely to die from pregnancy-related complications.

This is no coincidence. For centuries, systemic racism has harmed the mental, physical, and economic well-being of Black and Brown people. Thanks to the leadership of Black women in Congress, Congresswoman UNDERWOOD, Congresswoman SEWELL, Congresswoman ADAMS, and more, who are driving the omnibus, this body is working to bring us out of a Black maternal health crisis.

Madam Speaker, I rise for my sisters and their babies who are more than a statistic and deserve to be holistically treated and cared for. Black moms matter.

I urge my colleagues to support the omnibus and join us in our effort to protect Black women and Black mothers.

RECOGNIZING BRIGADIER GENERAL WILLIAM "ROBBIE" ROBERTSON ON HIS RETIREMENT

(Mr. LAHOOD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LAHOOD. Madam Speaker, I rise to commemorate the service of Brigadier General William "Robbie" Robertson on his retirement from the Illinois Air National Guard.

A Peoria native, General Robertson served 41 years in the Armed Forces, much of it as a member of Peoria's 182nd Airlift Wing of the Illinois National Guard. He served in various capacities as a security policeman, a pilot, a forward air controller, chief of operations, wing commander, and chief of staff for the Illinois Air National Guard.

General Robertson was integral in making the 182nd one of the best C-130 units in the country. During General Robertson's time at the 182nd, the unit earned five Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards, and nine times reached the highest C-130 Hercules mission capable rates in Air Mobility Command.

General Robertson is known throughout the Peoria community for his steady leadership and integrity. He is beloved by those who worked with him and know him.

I want to thank him for his service to our country and to our community and wish him well in his retirement.

RECOGNIZING GORDON RATHER

(Mr. HILL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HILL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Gordon Rather and

his hard work with the Historic Arkansas Museum in Little Rock. Currently, Gordon serves as the secretary of the Historic Arkansas Museum Commission. This year will mark Gordon's 50th year on the museum's board.

For half of those years, I have been fortunate to work alongside Gordon, an exceptional attorney and civic leader. He has devoted his adult life to preserving Arkansas' rich heritage for our kids.

I am proud to have served at his side in this worthy mission. I have seen firsthand the impact that he has made on our State and the legacy that he is preserving.

Congratulations, Gordon, on 50 years educating Arkansans about our rich history and preserving it for the next generation. I am thankful for your service.

TEMPLE BETH AM WELCOMES JEWISH PEOPLE FROM ALL WALKS OF LIFE

(Ms. SALAZAR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. SALAZAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today, on the fifth day of Hanukkah, to give special recognition to my Jewish community in Florida's 27th Congressional District.

As their Congresswoman, I have the distinct honor of representing one of the largest Jewish communities in the country, which includes Temple Beth Am, one of the largest congregations in the southeast United States.

For over 65 years, Temple Beth Am has welcomed Jewish people from all walks of life to worship, to study, and to seek refuge. For over six decades, the synagogue has provided spiritual guidance and served the Miami community in so many ways.

Much of this would have never happened without the leadership of Beth Am Senior Rabbi, Jeremy Barras. There are so many great spiritual Jewish leaders in our community along with Rabbi Barras; Rabbi Yitzi Zweig of the Talmudic University Yeshiva in Miami Beach; Rabbi Yossi Harlig of the Chabad Center of Kendall and Pinecrest; and Rabbi Eliot Pearlson of Temple Menorah in Miami Beach. They are esteemed local leaders and pillars of the Miami Jewish community, and I call them my friends.

Over the next few days, our Jewish brothers and sisters all over the world will continue to celebrate the Festival of Lights, God permitting. I offer my best wishes to all of them.

GUN VIOLENCE IN OUR SCHOOLS

(Ms. JACKSON LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I have been here since the Columbine tragedy, which is more than 20 years ago. I have faced a mountain of trage-

dies in schools with children dying at the hands of guns.

I offer my deepest sympathy for the loss of the beautiful, precious people in Michigan. I think a simple addition to this whole idea of the gun safety discussion—I intend to introduce a bill that is in tribute to Kimberly Vaughan who died in Santa Fe at the hands of a young gunman. I want to just simply say, Store your guns.

This storage act in honor of her name responds to the tragedy that just happened as well because it requires manufacturers and retailers to sell guns with storage safety devices to ensure that those penalties for not doing so are ahead of the loss of life; providing tax credits for those who do that; and as well, providing grants for more information about safety devices.

We have to do whatever we can to save the lives of our children.

TASKS TO DO OVER THE RECESS

(Mr. GROTHMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GROTHMAN. Madam Speaker, I think after next week we are going to spend about 3 weeks back in the district. It would be nice if people would go down to the southern border, as I did, and look at the path into Yuma, Texas, in which all the photo IDs are being thrown aside by the people who want to forget their past and start a new life in America.

I also hope when people go back home, they spend some time with the farmers and with the manufacturers that make our country run. They will find that the cost of metals used in manufacturing—and I have a big manufacturing district—are sometimes going up five or six times. Not 5 or 6 percent, five or six times.

They will find that mucking around with the free market of trucking in California has resulted in huge shortages of various different things that we need, including chemicals needed for agriculture, for things like planting soybeans and corn. Some farmers are afraid that sometime in the next year we are going to have a food shortage.

They will find out that the goal of taking away fossil fuels is going to result in significant increases in heating oil, which is particularly a problem in northern Wisconsin.

THE NEED FOR BETTER FOREST MANAGEMENT

(Mr. LAMALFA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LAMALFA. Madam Speaker, as we reflect upon yet another horrific fire season in California and the West, we cannot allow ourselves to forget or get complacent.

This week, we have had several good meetings here in D.C. with various groups talking about the need for better forest management.

This is more or less what the average forest looks like that is unmanaged. You can hardly see through it. You could never ride a horse through it. An owl can hardly fly through the thing. So what does this mean, an overcrowded forest? It means fire danger.

These trees compete for a limited amount of water supply. Insects attack and weaken trees because they don't have enough water and soil nutrients.

The right amount of trees per acre would look something like this. See, we are not cutting all the trees from Mexico to the Canadian border, we are leaving some behind, a healthier more sustainable forest. We will have much more success and much less fire danger.

Indeed, over a million acres in my district burned this year—a million acres. That is terrible for water quality, air quality, for the wildlife, and for the habitat. We could do so much better and put people back to work managing our forests in a way that is better for everybody with access to the forest. Let's get on it.

CANCEL STUDENT LOAN DEBT

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. STRICKLAND). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2021, the gentleman from New York (Mr. BOWMAN) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BOWMAN. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of my Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

Mr. BOWMAN. Madam Speaker, today, we are focused on Federal student loans.

This global pandemic, which is very much still with us, has been hard on Americans in so many ways. One source of relief the Federal Government has been able to provide is the pause on Federal student loan payments. That pause is scheduled to end after January, and tens of millions of Americans will have to resume monthly payments on their loans.

Millions of people will yet again be faced with terrible choices between paying off their loans and putting food on the table, paying for childcare, or paying medical bills. Student debt is a national crisis. It was a crisis before the COVID-19 pandemic and it is an even bigger one now.

I can't think of a better opportunity to cancel student loan debt. Today, over 40 million borrowers owe a combined \$1.8 trillion in loans, and the share of people who are able to make payments high enough to reduce their principal balance has been rapidly declining. That means for years people have been doing all they can to make

monthly payments but can only afford to keep up with the interest that accrues.

If someone took out a \$30,000 loan to go to a public State university but can only afford the minimum monthly payments to cover interest, they can be paying hundreds of dollars every month for years without seeing the total amount they owe go down at all. In fact, many borrowers see their debt increase because they can't even keep up with the interest.

□ 1845

Far too often it can take a borrower over a decade to pay off their loans, and many borrowers end up defaulting because they simply cannot make ends meet with such high payments. This can have lasting impacts on a person's financial, mental, and physical health which taken all together makes it harder for people to fully participate in the economy over the long-term.

For example, Madam Speaker, you can't get a Small Business Administration loan if you have defaulted on any loan in the past 7 years. So many of our family members, friends, and neighbors face additional barriers to starting businesses because of student debt. They face additional barriers to save for retirement, buying homes, taking care of their health and putting off doctors' visits or necessary prescriptions, starting families, or pursuing a career they are passionate about.

Students took these risks in their pursuit of the American Dream through obtaining a college degree. Students across America are doing exactly what we asked them to do; work hard, study and learn deeply, grow your mind, develop your skills, and expand your world view. Students across America took these steps because we told them that education, particularly higher education, would be the great equalizer. We told them their hard work would open doors for the rest of their lives.

Instead, we have shut those doors in their faces one by one, and we have disproportionately done this to Black and Latino, indigenous, and poor students. We have preyed upon our most vulnerable kids.

The student debt crisis is a racial justice issue, and we cannot talk about the problem nor the solutions without centering the experiences of students and families of color and others who come from marginalized communities.

Canceling student debt would mean putting money back into people's pockets and improving the overall economy. This is money that can be used to pay for childcare so that parents can reenter the workforce and actually use the degree they went into debt for in the first place. This is money that can be used to start a business or buy a house or pay for necessary healthcare.

This newfound freedom will open the door to pursue a passion or a purpose like teaching, nursing, or public serv-

ice rather than one that just pays the bills. This freedom will improve one's quality of life and provide the self-determination necessary for quality, long-term planning.

Canceling student debt would go a long way in reducing the racial wealth gap and the racial homeownership gap and would help address many of the systemic barriers Black and Brown families face.

It is time to cancel this predatory student debt to give the American people a fresh start and accelerate both the economic and social well-being of our Nation. Our predatory debt is an unfair and unjust burden that has been hanging over the heads of borrowers since they decided to pursue an education.

That is why I, along with many Members you will hear tonight, Madam Speaker, have been calling on President Biden to use his executive authority to cancel Federal student loans. This authority is already being used right now to cancel the interest owed on all Federal student loans during the pandemic. Now it is time to use that same authority to cancel all Federal student debts.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Washington (Ms. JAYAPAL), who will highlight many ways canceling students loan debt is urgently needed. Congresswoman JAYAPAL will address this House on this very important issue.

Ms. JAYAPAL, Madam Speaker, I thank my colleague, Representative BOWMAN, for his incredible leadership. It has been a true honor to serve with the gentleman in the Progressive Caucus, this Special Order hour has always been the Progressive Caucus' Special Order hour led in his very capable hands and also to be able to serve with him on the Education and Labor Committee. The gentleman brings tremendous power to the actual experience of education through his own background. I am so proud to serve with the gentleman.

Madam Speaker, I, too, am here to talk about the need to cancel student debt. This is a tremendous crisis for 36 million Americans who are being crushed by \$1.8 trillion in student loan debt.

When I first ran for Congress in 2016, the number was \$1.2 trillion; then it was \$1.3 trillion, \$1.5 trillion, now it is almost \$1.8 trillion in student loan debt. Working families and students are counting on this administration to build us all back better.

But many families like those I represent in Seattle cannot thrive with the crippling burden of student loan debt holding them back at every single turn.

With the student loan moratorium expiring at the end of January, borrowers are literally just a few weeks away from resuming to pay substantial amounts of their income toward student loan payments and the crises that they are facing, the trauma that they

are facing as they think about what they are going to do when this moratorium expires and how they are going to make these payments. Over one-quarter of borrowers expect at least one-third of their income will go toward student loans once the pause ends, and they are terrified. Eighty-nine percent of full-time employed borrowers are expecting to be financially insecure come February 1.

While that number is concerning, it should not be surprising. The economic toll of the pandemic has made it tough for one-quarter of all adults to pay their bills. To make ends meet, people have stayed afloat by using the money that would have gone to student loan payments on all the other essential costs that they have. Eighty-seven percent of borrowers report using these savings to pay off other bills.

This is personal. My office recently heard from a mother and a veteran in the Seattle area who was delinquent in her payments even before the first case of COVID-19 hit our country. She is glad that the pause has given her a chance to catch up on payments, but she is concerned that very soon she will have to choose between paying her mortgage and repaying her student loans after January. Not having to make student loan payments has helped her and her family. But should this pause end without student debt cancellation, she and her children will be on the path to financial ruin. We have the power to make sure that does not happen. This administration has the power to make sure that does not happen.

The good news is that this administration does have, as my colleague said, the authority to do what is right for families like hers and like so many that I have been hearing from. Clearly, if the pause on student loans and interest was necessary to help families sustain themselves through the pandemic, then ending it without any form of permanent student debt relief would be harmful, especially as many families are continuing to struggle during this ongoing crisis.

Consider the tremendous strides the Biden administration has made toward reviving our struggling economy: low unemployment, reopened businesses, and vaccinations driving consumer demand. Eliminating \$50,000, at least, of student debt per borrower would increase average yearly pay by \$3,000 which in turn would increase GDP by \$1 trillion.

Cancelation would also solidify access to important paths for building the middle class which have been delayed due to student loan debt. More than 80 percent of borrowers with student loan debt report that that debt is holding them back from being able to afford a home. Many would be in a better position to begin saving for homeownership as well as retirement or starting a business.

Student loan forgiveness would also help close the wealth gap, as Mr. BOWMAN pointed out, especially in communities of color. Black, Latinx, and Native borrowers are more likely to struggle with repayments and consequently default on their loans at higher rates. Further, it is estimated that Black borrowers on average owe nearly \$53,000 in student debt, the highest compared to other communities. In fact, the average student debt for Black households tripled in the 12 years following the 2008 recession with student debt held by Black borrowers being triple what White borrowers owe just 4 years after graduating.

So, yes, this is clearly a matter of racial and economic justice.

Low-income and middle-class Americans are encouraged to pursue higher education as a tool for economic and social mobility. But here is the catch, the enduring weight of student loan debt negates opportunities for many borrowers to truly transform their lives and our country.

As the lead sponsor of the College for All Act in the House and a proud co-sponsor of the debt cancellation bill from Representative OMAR, I know that eliminating student loan debt will better ensure that earning a degree remains a strong path to social mobility and economic security, particularly during this pivotal moment for our recovery. That is why the administration should cancel student loan debt.

They can start with immediately eliminating at least \$50,000 in student loan debt per borrower before the payments begin again. It is a single action that can cement progress for an entire generation of Americans and those who come after that. So let's deliver that financial breathing room. Let's deliver on racial equity and economic security by canceling student loan debt.

Mr. BOWMAN. Madam Speaker, I thank Congresswoman JAYAPAL for her remarks, and I thank her for her congressional leadership as the chair of the Congressional Progressive Caucus. I thank the gentlewoman for lending her voice and vision to this very important issue.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from New York (Mr. ESPAILLAT), who represents the Boogie Down Bronx right next door to me.

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Madam Speaker, I thank Representative BOWMAN for yielding. Don't forget, I also represent Manhattan. I am a Latin from Manhattan.

Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for giving me the opportunity to address this incredible issue.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of canceling student debt for over 43 million Americans. In fact, Madam Speaker, student debt for some time now has surpassed credit card debt for America. It is mind-boggling to consider that for many Americans they could be indebted for a significant period of their adult lifespan. Those who have children and then choose to help

them out could be indebted for an entire life. So this is not the way a country should move forward.

For more than a decade, mounting student loan debt has made it difficult for many Americans to purchase a home, to start their own business, to move forward and aspire to be part of the middle class or the advancement that this Nation should promise all its people.

They have difficulties saving for the future of their families, so this is a transgenerational crisis. It is far beyond one generation.

Recent data shows that borrowers in the United States owe collectively \$1.6 trillion in Federal and private student loan debt. With the surge of the coronavirus cases and the rise in unemployment claims, the student loan crisis only worsened. It became a very deep crisis not only impacting American futures but putting in jeopardy the immediate needs and well-being of American families.

As a strong proponent of student debt cancellation, I was proud to join my colleagues in responding to the growing crisis. Democrats in the House of Representatives led a bipartisan effort to provide economic assistance and relief to student borrowers in the CARES Act which was extended in the American Rescue Plan. So we have a record, Madam Speaker, of trying to throw a lifeline to all these borrowers who are drowning in debt.

Earlier this year I was proud to join my colleagues in calling for a bold plan to tackle the student loan debt crisis and cancel up to \$50,000 in student loan debt for Federal student loan borrowers.

Failure to cancel student loan debt will continue to greatly affect the quality of life for millions of Americans. Like the coronavirus pandemic, student debt disproportionately affects low-income, working class, and communities of color. We must work to create a more equitable outcome for everyone.

Student loan cancellation isn't only relief for debt holders, it is also one of the most effective ways to stimulate our economy. Let's be smart about this, Madam Speaker. Let's be smart about this. Let's unshackle and unsaddle people from their debt so they can have just a little bit more money in their pocket and spend it in local businesses.

□ 1900

They will not run away on a European vacation. They will not go to the South of France. They will go to the local store and spend their money there on emergency items, milk, Pampers, and food. So let's help them out.

When Americans aren't burdened by student loans, they are more easily able to start businesses and help their families. Removing the financial barriers allows Americans to more easily join the workforce, as well.

So not only will it stimulate local businesses and small businesses, which

continue to be the biggest employers in America, but it would also help people come back to the workforce.

I look forward to working with my colleagues in the Congressional Progressive Caucus to provide relief and economic justice to the millions upon millions of struggling debt owners under a mountain of student debt.

Madam Speaker, I thank my distinguished colleague from the Bronx, and from Mount Vernon, and from Rockland County, and all the other areas that the gentleman distinguishes and represents for yielding to me.

Mr. BOWMAN. Madam Speaker, I thank Mr. ESPAILLAT for his kind words. Before he goes, I want to underscore what he said about people investing in their own communities when they have more money in their pockets. The gentleman just made me think of all the young children who want to take art classes, drama classes, and swimming lessons, and receive tutoring, and all the things that families cannot afford because they are trying to pay down their student debt.

They can reinvest in their communities, reinvest in their children, and their children will be much less likely to commit harm to themselves or their communities because they have been developed and nurtured from an early age.

I thank the gentleman so much for his remarks, my brother representing the Bronx, Manhattan, and the historic Washington Heights. We cannot forget that, Brother.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Georgia (Ms. WILLIAMS), my sister and fellow freshman.

Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I thank Representative BOWMAN for yielding.

I am here today with the urgent request that the Biden administration cancel the student debt obligations that burden 44.7 million Americans. I am one of these 44.7 million Americans who is still paying off student loans well after our college days.

I rise today to elevate the voices of the numerous constituents who continuously call me, Facebook me, and DM me to tell me their stories, including Natalie from Morningside and Jacob from Atlanta, both of whom told me that they are desperate for relief and that they only see heartache in their futures, all thanks to their student loan debt.

But we know that it doesn't have to be this way. During the COVID-19 pandemic, a financial lifeline was extended to the American people with emergency student loan relief. But that lifeline is going to end in just 2 short months.

Now that we have seen that being free of the burden of student loan debt is possible, we must deliver for the American people and cancel student debt permanently.

Student debt is disproportionately held by Black borrowers and continues to worsen the racial wealth gap. Nowhere is it more obvious to have this

vicious cycle of student loan debt exacerbate the racial wealth gap than with our historically Black colleges and universities. Not only am I a proud third-generation HBCU alum of Talladega College, but Georgia's Fifth Congressional District has more HBCUs than any other congressional district in this country.

HBCUs have been intentionally underfunded throughout their history. While the Build Back Better Act will partially rectify that injustice, HBCUs are still struggling to meet the needs of the more than 290,000 students enrolled in more than 100 HBCUs across America today. HBCUs' endowments are smaller compared to those of predominantly White institutions, and, in turn, that limits the aid that HBCUs can provide to our students, leading to larger student loans and smaller alumni donations, burdening grads with tens of thousands of dollars in debt and perpetuating the cycle for generations to come.

Student loan debt also prevents people from starting a family and building a better life. An Education Trust study found that of graduate degree holders who earn between \$75,000 and \$100,000 with \$94,000 in student loan debt, 55 percent of debtors delayed investments in retirement; 67 percent postponed buying a home; and 36 percent postponed having a child.

We live in the richest country in the world. We ought to be ashamed of these statistics. We shouldn't accept that people must choose between paying off student loans or having the family that they have always dreamed of. For generations, American students have heard that a college education is the key to unlocking the American Dream. Instead of unlocking the American Dream, we have only created a uniquely American nightmare.

We made a promise to the American people. We can deliver on that promise by canceling student loan debt so that everyone can thrive and not merely survive.

I thank Representative BOWMAN for hosting this Special Order hour, and I look forward to making sure that we deliver on the promise of America for everyone.

Mr. BOWMAN. Madam Speaker, I thank Congresswoman WILLIAMS for participating.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ), who represents the Bronx and Queens.

Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding. We are here, Bronx boogie down caucus checking in, yerr caucus checking in, student loan cancellation caucus checking in because this is getting ridiculous. This is ridiculous.

I am 32 years old. I am a first-generation college graduate on my mom's side, and growing up, I was told, since I was a child: Your destiny is to go to college. That is what is going to lift our family up and out. That is our fu-

ture. That is what we are here to accomplish.

I was 17 years old when college recruiters started coming to my high school saying: This is worth it.

We still do that today because it is teenagers signing up for what is often hundreds of thousands of dollars of debt, and we just do that, and our government allows that. We give 17-year-olds the ability to sign on and sign up for \$100,000 worth of debt, and we think that is responsible policy.

I am 32 years old now. I have over \$17,000 in student loan debt. I didn't go to graduate school because I knew that getting another degree would drown me in debt that I would never be able to surpass. This is unacceptable.

Not only that, but 65 percent of all jobs in this country require an education beyond high school; first-generation college students are two times as likely to report being behind on student loan payments; and 63 percent of borrowers who made payments with Navient during the COVID forbearance still owe more now than they originally borrowed. There are hundreds of thousands of people in this country who owe more on their student loans now than they did when they first took them out.

We as a country are profiting off of insurmountable and crushing educational debt, and it is wrong. It is absolutely wrong. Four years after graduation, 48 percent of Black students owe an average of 12.5 percent more than they originally borrowed.

But this isn't just an issue of a debt crisis. This is an educational crisis in the United States of America. If we want to remain competitive, if we want to remain innovative, and if we need the technological investments necessary to address things like climate change, we need an educated country.

The United States has a policy of actively disincentivizing higher education. We disincentivize people from getting a college or secondary education beyond high school. That is backward. The least we can do—we have a moral obligation, an economic obligation, a political obligation to cancel student loan debt in the United States of America.

We have seen the benefits that this has had during the forbearance alone. It has given people the breathing room to do what they need to do so we can stop writing these ridiculous articles that young people are killing diamond rings, that they are not buying houses, and that they are killing this industry or that, that we are not having children. It is because we are being crushed by immoral debt.

No person should have to go into debt, crushing debt, in order to get an education. It is wrong. It is backward, and it doesn't help us as a country. So I am greatly looking forward to that. I am greatly looking forward to the Biden administration canceling student loan debt and no longer advancing the false narrative that student loan debt is for the privileged.

What a ridiculous assertion. Do we really think that a billionaire's child is taking student loans? Come on. Come on. If you are taking on student loan debt, it is because you are likely a working or middle-class person.

So let's get real. Let's cancel it. It is in the interest of the people. It is in the interest of this country. It is in the interest of our future.

I thank the distinguished Representative from the Bronx and Westchester, JAMAAL BOWMAN, for yielding.

Mr. BOWMAN. Madam Speaker, I thank Congresswoman OCASIO-CORTEZ for taking me back to when I was 17, a senior in high school, trying to figure out what the heck I was going to do. I decided to go to college. We didn't have any money, so they offer you all this free money and say: There you go. You could take out as much as you want, as much as you need. Just come to our school, and we will take care of you.

Then what happens is, you take on all of this debt, and then you get out, and you are underpaid in terms of the employment you receive. Then the rent is too high, and the groceries are too high, and the childcare is too high.

Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. BOWMAN. I yield to the gentlewoman from New York.

Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ. And health insurance is too high.

Mr. BOWMAN. And health insurance is too high. It is unbelievable.

We need to cancel student debt and end the predatory practices on our young people, completely end the practice.

It is my honor to now yield to the distinguished gentlewoman from Massachusetts (Ms. PRESSLEY).

Ms. PRESSLEY. Madam Speaker, I thank Congressman BOWMAN for yielding. There is nothing freshman about him. He has hit the ground running since he has been here, and he has been a leader and partner on many issues, including this issue of student debt. I thank the gentleman for his partnership on our congressional resolution calling for President Biden to provide broad-based student debt cancellation.

Madam Speaker, I rise today on behalf of more than 45 million people in America crushed by the growing weight of the \$1.7 trillion student debt crisis. The grandmother—you heard me right, the grandmother—I have a 76-year-old constituent in the Massachusetts Seventh still paying student loans, all while on Social Security and a fixed income.

I rise on behalf of the new parents struggling to manage the skyrocketing costs of childcare for which Massachusetts is the second highest in the country, \$21,000 per child for center-based care; new parents struggling to manage the skyrocketing cost of childcare, rent, and their student loan payments; the teacher who fears losing their teaching license because they have gone into default and can't come up with that monthly student loan payment, not even the minimum.

The irony of it is that this is debt that they incurred in order to be an educator, in order to be a nation builder, to pour into our children, the next generation.

I rise on behalf of an entire generation of young people, young people I met with a couple of weeks ago who, when I asked them about their future, were despondent and expressed great hopelessness: Well, I don't know that I am going to go to college because I don't want to be in debt for the rest of my life, and I fear if there will even be a planet for me to grow up on.

I rise today on behalf of a whole generation of young people grappling with that sense of foreboding and despair, a generation of young folk who have been forced to hold off on pursuing education, starting higher education, starting a small business, purchasing a home because of record levels of student loan debt.

I rise on behalf of Black and Brown folk who, due to generations of precise and intentional what I would characterize as policy violence, have been forced to take on higher rates of student debt for just a chance at the same degree as our White peers.

□ 1915

Madam Speaker, the student debt crisis is one that disproportionately impacts our Black community. For too long, the narrative has excluded us and the unique ways in which this debt is exacerbating racial and economic inequities, compounding our gender and racial wealth gap. We have to borrow at higher rates just for a shot at the same degree as our White peers.

Black women, in particular, bear the largest burden, as they are forced to take on higher student debt loads, all while navigating a persisting wage gap that allows Black women to earn just 61 cents to every dollar earned by a White man. These are systemic barriers that make it significantly more challenging to repay this debt.

There are some who have questioned if this is regressive in impact, to cancel student debt of \$50,000. They have questioned the merit as to whether or not this is a racial justice issue. Well, ask the presidents of the historically Black colleges and universities who have been using ARPA funds to cancel student debt. Not regressive in impact. Important, necessary, and long overdue.

These are systemic barriers that have existed long before this pandemic and unjust pre-COVID status quo.

In this moment, as we work to build back better and do so equitably, President Biden has an opportunity and a responsibility and the authority to address the hurt and harm these communities are feeling by using his executive authority to cancel \$50,000 in Federal student loan debt.

Doing so is one of most effective ways he can provide sweeping relief to millions of families while helping to reduce the racial wealth gap to lay the groundwork for an equitable and just long-term recovery.

This is a crisis created through policy decisions, and we have a responsibility to address it head on. In this moment of ongoing crisis, our families need every bit of help that they can get.

In just under 2 months, student debt payments are scheduled to resume for millions of families across this country. Families who have been struggling to make ends meet throughout this pandemic, through no fault of their own in this pandemic-induced recession, will have an additional bill to cover.

I have parents in my district in their fifties still paying on their student loans and now helping their children pay for their student loans. This is an intergenerational crisis.

This summer, we applauded the Biden administration for heeding the calls of many of us here tonight, heeding the calls of this movement, the movement that elected him, when they extended the pause on student loan payments. We fought hard for that.

This welcome action gave another layer of protection to the millions of borrowers facing a disastrous financial cliff. But our work here is unfinished.

This isn't a question as to whether or not he has the authority, because that authority has already been exercised. The same authority should be used to extend the payment pause. President Biden must now cancel at least \$50,000 in student debt to boost the economy and to close the racial wealth gap.

In this moment of a so-called reckoning on racial injustice, the only receipts that matter are policies and budgets.

The truth, Madam Speaker, is that this economic crisis is far from over. Families in the Seventh District of Massachusetts and all across the country are continuing to struggle to make ends meet. Failure to act would be unconscionable, so we must move with urgency.

As we continue the work of building a just and equitable recovery from the current economic crisis, broad-based, across-the-board, and permanent student debt cancellation must remain front and center.

The people, including the broad and diverse coalition that elected President Biden, demand, deserve, and require nothing less.

Mr. BOWMAN. Madam Speaker, I thank Congresswoman PRESSLEY for her words.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. TLAIB).

Ms. TLAIB. Madam Speaker, I thank so much Representative BOWMAN for hosting this critically important Special Order hour tonight.

Representative BOWMAN said something that really resonated with me. When I was a senior in high school, they really did make it sound like that money was free. That money was far from free, as we know.

Students in our country have become profit centers. They really, truly have, and it is ruining lives.

One of the first ever townhalls I had when I first got elected was in western Wayne, in Wayne County, Michigan.

A young lady, after I opened it up for questions, stood up. She stood up very strong and looked over at me and started crying, in tears, telling me just how incredibly hard it is to be able to survive, become a homeowner, to be able to move on. She told me about how much it felt like she was trapped, like she was hostage to the student loan debt, and the fact that all she wanted to do was give back. She wanted to get her degree and come back to the community that raised her, come back to the community and give back, and it was so incredibly hard.

Today, as we hear over and over again, 15 million of our neighbors across our country owe trillions in outstanding student debt. That alone should resonate with so many of my colleagues. This must become a national priority.

One of the things that I think is important, as we hear about these stories, is the human impact. I was the first in my family to graduate from high school. My father only went up to a 4th grade education, my mother, an 8th grade education. My father came here at 19 years old. They could have never imagined, of course, their daughter being able to graduate from high school and go on to college. Yes, I worked full-time Monday through Friday and took weekend classes to get my law degree and still had close to \$200,000 in debt. I still owe over \$70,000, and most of it is interest. Most of it was our own government making money and profit off of me.

And guess what? I didn't go to work for the for-profit entities. I went to legal aid. I worked at the nonprofit organization fighting for the right to breathe clean air, to fight for the worker that was getting their wage taken and stolen by their employer. I worked on immigrant rights and so much more.

All of that is to say, we have to stop treating folks paying for their education as if they bought some bougie car or something big, something beyond them. But, no, they were seeking an education.

As many of my colleagues will tell you, there is that counselor in the hallway that would pull us aside and say, Rashida, where is your application for college? You have got to apply. And I am like, I am the eldest of 14, Coach Watson—it was Coach Perry Watson at Southwestern High School. He still remembers pulling me into his office because he didn't get an application from me—and I said, I am the eldest of 14; I can't go—my parents are working-class folks; my dad worked on the line at Ford Motor Company—and say, Hey, dad, help me out here; I want to go to college.

So all of that is to say, yeah, they sat us down. Of course, there was the Pell grant and all of that. Of course, there was. But at the end, it was still a

struggle. It was still a struggle. Because guess what, some of that money you couldn't use for certain things. I remember this. They changed stuff a little bit after I graduated. But still, I had to work. I had to figure out how to pay for the gas to get to the school and so much more.

But I think it is really important to know, in my home State of Michigan, I think the average loan borrower now is close to \$35,000 in debt. You have to add on the healthcare costs, the rent, the utilities, car payments, and so much more to just really live your life.

So the majority of our American people, our neighbors right now, educated or not, live check by check. They literally live check by check. Add to that the average of \$250 or more for student loans, it is really holding people back.

When I look at my State—my district is the third poorest congressional district in the country. When I look at the eyes and look at the families that I represent and they come to our townhalls and talk about the struggles and “please help, make government about people, make it about us, put us first.” One of the things that I continue to hear, the common theme is: We didn't do anything wrong. We just went to go get access to higher education. They feel like they are being penalized. They feel, truly, that the interest rates—I read this—that the interest rates are one of the silent killers when it comes to debt repayment. They feel like they are being punished for doing something that they were taught to do, right? They go to college, do right, work hard, and they feel like they are being penalized.

The cost of education in our country just continues to increase. We all know that. We see it over and over again. So what sounds like something that can't be solved, that it is something impossible, it actually is not that complex.

President Biden has the ability, his administration has the ability, with the stroke of a pen, to help millions of our neighbors across the country to get out of student debt.

We are far from putting this pandemic behind us. It has been a struggle for many of us. Yes, these payments are going to be coming due. Folks are so anxious about it, even planning now. Folks are sending me messages on social media, What do I do about Christmas? Because I know around the corner, I have got to start repaying the student loans.

It is difficult to put into words just how big of a difference relieving this heavy burden would make in the lives of so many of my residents.

I am grateful to stand here with many of my colleagues joining in this fight. Rarely, if ever, in politics are you presented with an easy solution to such an impossible problem. But this one isn't. This one is pretty easy. We are the ones. The government is profiting off of people, and we have got to stop.

I think when we, again, make government about people and we put them

first, then I think it is going to be an easy decision for the administration and for President Biden to come up with the plan that is needed to really help that young lady that came to my townhall, and so many others, in making this a national priority.

I can tell you, they all know, and they were all doing what they were supposed to be doing and at the end, they are still struggling.

I know my colleague is not a millionaire, but I always like reminding people of this. The majority of my colleagues in this Chamber are. They don't understand the struggle of living check by check. They don't understand. Some of them may not be close in understanding the pain of that student loan debt that is really heavy on so many families.

So I stand here in solidarity with my colleagues in saying, let's do the right thing, let's make this a national priority, let's get an executive order done, and let's help millions of Americans that did nothing wrong except wanting to access a higher education which, as they were told, was access to a beautiful, vibrant life in our country.

Again, we can't continue to make them a profit center. We have to make them our priority, and they deserve to be able to live and thrive in our country.

Mr. BOWMAN. Madam Speaker, I thank Congresswoman TLAIK so much for her powerful words.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from New York for both his leadership and his inspiration. He obviously cares. That is why he is on the floor tonight.

I think that is the point that I want to make. It looks as if we are lonely on this floor tonight. It looks as if we are in the eve of the day's work. It looks as if we could be somewhere else.

I can tell you, being from a district in Houston that is surrounded by universities, and I know that I will get someone in trouble for trying to call the roll of the universities around the 18th Congressional District, like the historic Texas Southern University, University of Houston, University of St. Thomas, Houston Baptist University, Lone Star College, Houston Community College, and San Jacinto College. I know someone is texting me right now. But I am full of college students, all of them working very hard.

I thought I would bring to the floor today the Constitution. I love the words of the Declaration of Independence, the opening words, that we are all created equal with certain inalienable rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

Does that mean the students that are right now struggling to make ends meet—I think of that famous noodle meal that they eat because they just don't have the money to survive—does that mean that one person, that is still

the first person to go to college, in 2021, the single mother that has made it to 20-something hours, has to drop out?

America has always said that the American Dream is defined singularly by your presence here in the United States. Yet, we are finding that State and Federal policymakers are ignoring the \$1,730,000,000 plus of national student debt and that one-sixth of the American people, 47,900,000, about that number, are indebted to student debt. That is why we are here on the floor today, recognizing that it also is an imbalance.

□ 1930

I thank Mr. BOWMAN, an educator, who has seen little babies grow up with little stars in their eyes. They can play a piano or they can play an instrument or he sees them playing on the field of recreation, and they are little scientists, scholars, but yet the hopes and dreams of the opportunity is somewhat denied.

Black families must take on more debt for the same degree as White students and often need to get several degrees in order to be in the middle class. The burden of student debt reaches deep into communities of color. Increasing evidence suggests that it is hampering the ability to build wealth.

One of the reasons my good friend and myself are also interested in the idea of the commission to study slavery and develop reparation proposals is to get a roadmap of some of the populations that are impacted negatively by student debt.

Default and delinquency rates on student loans remain appallingly high. 3.6 million students are in the State of Texas. The Nation carries \$1.7 trillion debt, and we know that 79 percent of Black students had student loan debt by their fourth year. We know it impacts our Latinx families and families that come from rural communities. We are concerned about them.

I hold in my hand the Constitution, as I said. I don't know how many students have time to even look in that direction, but I will tell them that the Founding Fathers, although not perfect, said that they came together to create a more perfect Union.

And what does that mean? I think it means, give us hope, give us a lifeline, let us breathe, and let us be able to buy the things that will help our families. Let us not, as a Black male borrower, default on loans within 12 years of beginning school.

This, of course, covers the gamut of all of America. It is not just the issue of people of color. It impacts older borrowers, 60 and older, whose numbers swelled from 700,000 in 2005 to 2.8 million in 2018. Their debt load was \$8.2 billion. Can you imagine being 60 and older and still paying debt?

I came here to the floor tonight because I have wanted to join the gentleman for people to see that in spite of the fact that we are here at a moment

into the evening, we care about getting this done. It must be the Congress and the administration that takes hold of this and determines that people who are now struggling to pay mortgages, to survive, to feed children, we hope the Build Back Better bill will be a lifeline, but right now we have got to deal with people who wanted to do right and are suffering.

I want to close on this note: To create a more perfect Union, the Constitution guarantees me that. The Declaration of Independence says that this Nation was created to ensure the inalienable rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

And I want to say to those who have gained student debt but never completed their degree, they are not in any way bad people, defaulters, deadbeats; no, they are not. The Constitution applies to all. But they are people who are working in jobs just to survive. They wanted to finish school, but they were so overloaded; maybe they had to leave to take care of a sick mother or a sick father or maybe they had to leave to take care of younger brothers and sisters. I know those stories. But maybe they are now back in school struggling to just try to get that degree.

Let's give them hope. Let's give them dignity. Let's help them with that default and turn it into success. Let's join in—Congressman, thank you—to cancel student loan debt. And we are not frivolous, big spenders. We are trying to put people on the right track so that they can contribute to this great economy and be givers, givers for what is good in America. I hope we can get the job done.

Mr. BOWMAN. Thank you so much, Congresswoman JACKSON LEE. You made me think of the hundreds or even thousands of students and families that I have met throughout my career in education who in elementary school have already made the decision that their children are not going to attempt to go to college despite their brilliance, despite them being artists and scientists and architects and engineers and athletes and musicians and all of those things.

Because of the crippling impact of student debt and cost of college, they have already made the decision when kids are as young as 5, 6 years old. That is unconscionable, that is un-American, and the President has the authority and the moral responsibility to cancel student debt right now. Thank you so much for your words.

I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. GOMEZ), the last speaker of the evening. I thank him for being here.

Mr. GOMEZ. Madam Speaker, I thank Mr. BOWMAN for organizing this Special Order hour.

I like to describe the student loan debt crisis as a boot on the neck of the American Dream and on the neck of millions of Americans who make that American Dream a reality. And that is

because higher education is the one way that we achieve the American Dream. It is what I did.

I am the youngest of six of immigrant parents from Mexico. My two parents never made it past third grade. Both could read but not really write. One of the things that they knew is that coming here would give me that opportunity to change my life. I was fortunate enough to be born here. My brother Javier and I were born here, and I was one of the first to graduate from college.

It allowed me to believe that I could do more, to believe I could be part of this country, and about that American promise. You come here, you believe in our values, you work hard, you give back, you are going to have a place, and you are going to succeed; and the next generation, your kids and your grandkids, are going to do even better.

I am fortunate. I got to go to a community college after I worked at Subway and Target, and then I transferred to UCLA, graduated in the top 10 percent of my class. Then I got my master's of public policy from Harvard University.

I ended up walking away with \$15,000 in debt from undergrad, which wasn't bad. I thought it was a lot of money. When you graduate, and you are only getting paid \$24,000 a year, it was a lot of money. And I walked away with a little bit over \$65,000 from the Kennedy School for my master's degree. And don't forget, a lot of students also have credit card debt on top of that.

But you know what, I am fortunate that I got to go to school. I am fortunate that I have been able to change my life. I am fortunate that I have been able to get jobs that provide me health insurance for the first time in my family's history, and that my debt isn't as crippling as the current generation's debt.

The current generation's debt after the Great Recession ballooned to historic proportions. That is why you have trillions of dollars in student loan debt on the backs of 47 million Americans.

You know what? These are dreamers; these are people who believe in the American Dream, that say, you know what, I have been told, go to school, work hard. And you know what, it doesn't matter, if you get into the best school possible, take out that debt because it is going to come back tenfold. In the past, that was the case.

But we don't see that now. We see that the debt that has been put on the backs—because we underinvested in higher education, we underinvested in K-12—is crippling people to living their version of the American Dream.

It is so severe, and it pains me and it depresses me, that people are actually are deciding, I would rather not go to college because I don't want to have debt. Think about that. That is the decision people are making now, I would rather not have the best opportunity to achieve the American Dream because

the amount of debt will prevent me from living that American Dream once I graduate.

I think that is shameful because these are the folks that are renewing this idea to live a more just and perfect Union, to refresh that idea generation upon generation. And it is unfortunate because who does it impact? It often impacts immigrants, people of color, Blacks, Latinos, single mothers, single parents. They are the ones that are taking on higher and higher burdens of debt.

Then when they graduate, they sometimes get jobs that don't pay them that well because they want to give back. They care about their communities. We saw in a recent New York Times article that graduates from a school of social work were graduating with \$112,000 in debt but getting paid \$50,000. This is something that we see time and time again.

If people want to believe in the American Dream, then they have to care about canceling student loan debt; to refresh the potential of millions of Americans to buy their first house, to raise children, to start a business, to grow our economy. I believe that this is something that Americans from all sides of the aisle could agree on.

Madam Speaker, I am calling on the President to cancel \$50,000 of student loan debt in the next year.

Mr. BOWMAN. Madam Speaker, I thank Congressman GOMEZ for his powerful and inspiring words.

President Biden and his administration have made some important strides to improve student loan debt for many people who are enrolled in public service loan forgiveness. 30,000 people getting loan forgiveness is a big step in the right direction. Now we need loan forgiveness for the more than 40 million other people in this country.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

THE UNITED STATES HOUSE OF FREE STUFF

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2021, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ROY) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. ROY. Madam Speaker, I am fascinated to learn that I serve in the United States House of free stuff because that is what I have been hearing nonstop this entire week.

There is an unlimited supply of money and resources apparently, an unlimited supply of dollars that we can continue to print while devastating our economy, devastating the American dollar, and transforming our society by encouraging Americans to believe that there is a free lunch. And there ain't no free lunch.

My wife is the product of a single mom growing up in Texas. Her mom worked multiple jobs to send her to college. She worked hard to be able to go to college. She left with 70-some-thousand dollars of student loans

despite going to two top public universities in the State of Texas.

She is not asking for her loans to get repaid because she went there with a free will. She went there and made a choice. She could have chosen a different path. She chose to take the debt. I did the same thing when I went to law school at the University of Texas. I might not have chosen to go to law school if the loans hadn't been available, and that might be fine.

What is the fundamental problem? Why has the cost of education skyrocketed in my lifetime at an inflation rate multiple times over virtually every other product and service in this country except for healthcare? Why is it up something like 3,000 percent?

Is it perhaps because we are subsidizing the holy heck out of it? Just thinking perhaps that there might be a correlation to the availability—massive, widespread availability—of subsidized student loans, the massive subsidization of K-12 education and higher ed. Do we think there might be a correlation to why the costs have skyrocketed so much?

But no, no, no, my colleagues on the other side of the aisle now walk in here and say, oh, you know, we are not the party of big spenders; we have got a chart here with \$1.7 trillion on it with another chart saying, "Cancel Student Debt."

Who is paying for that? Does anybody in this body give a rat's rear end about who is paying for anything at all? No. Oh, no, then they will come out here and say \$3 trillion of tax cuts. They don't care about economic growth and opportunity. But fine.

Why don't we actually have a conversation about spending and taxes? No, no, we don't do that. We just spend money we don't have. That is what we did today in the continuing resolution to keep this government running. Oh, my gosh, panic ensues if you dare question whether or not the government must be funded Saturday at 12:01 in the morning. What will the American people do? How will they function if the United States House of free stuff isn't doling out free stuff?

□ 1945

No one is in this Chamber, of course. Just reminding the American people how this place doesn't work. We are now on 5½ straight years of no amendments being offered on the floor of this august Chamber.

I would like to remind the American people every once in a while that what they saw about how a bill becomes a law is a complete fraud. See, there is a handful of people who get into a room and they decide what you are going to vote on.

The Speaker knows it is true, and my colleagues on the other side of the aisle know it is true. And my colleagues on this side of the aisle know it is true because they did it when they were in the majority just as much as my colleagues on the other side of the aisle did it when they were in the majority.

We get a massive bill dropped on our desk, and we say take it or leave it. Go offer an amendment in rules, they say. Never taken. Never accepted. Always prechosen, always pregamed out.

This is deliberation and debate? This is the constitutional order? What value is there for an election certificate if you can't use it? You come to the floor and want to offer an amendment in good faith to try to make a piece of legislation better, and you can't do it.

We have 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12 people max who decide everything that goes on in this Chamber in all of their infinite wisdom. Then we come down and look at the board, and it is party-line votes, and then it is walk out on the steps and go give a speech and go to the press and go on Twitter and go on Facebook and go talk about why you are voting no or yes. That is what we are relegated to in the United States House of free stuff.

But today, we just voted to extend the funding of government with a continuing resolution, which is going to barrel us toward a trillion-dollar deficit this year, give or take. Who knows? Does it matter? Does anybody know what the difference is between a trillion dollars or \$1.2 trillion? Does anybody know the difference between \$29 trillion in debt or \$30 trillion in debt? Nobody knows or cares in this Chamber. Literally not a lick. We don't talk about it.

Then each side comes down on the floor and offers more spending for whatever their priority is, defense, nondefense, mandatory spending, non-mandatory spending.

If the unbelievably terrible circumstance occurred Friday night at midnight of this government daring to pause, do the American people know that about 82 percent of it is on autopilot with mandatory spending? I mean, does that matter? When you walk out and a gaggle of reporters come up with bated breath, oh, no, there might be a government shutdown. It always gets paid back. Eighty-two percent of it keeps running.

There is never a serious debate about what is actually happening here in the United States of America. We never actually sit down like family or a small business, roll our sleeves up, and decide how to spend money. Do you imagine if we actually had to adhere to a budget like any business or American family, and we actually had to sit down, Madam Speaker, at that table and not leave this Chamber until we said our budget is \$3 trillion or \$4 trillion, whatever it is, here is our income; here is what we can spend; that is all we can do; let's figure out our priorities. Well, we disagree. You know, do you want to fund NEA? Do you want to fund the Department of Education, XYZ? Do you want to fund the military? Do you want to fund specific B-52 bombers? Do you want to fund healthcare? Do you want to fund border security?

Make a choice. We never make a choice, ever—both parties, by the way,

both leaders. We never make a choice. All we do is preen and posture and come down here with massive bills that have some of our priorities, depending on who is in the majority. That is it. Again, we are relegated to being the United States House of free stuff.

You have to call it free stuff because we are just printing the money to do the stuff. We are down here talking about, oh, we have to cancel the student debt. Well, man, wouldn't that be lovely? Who cares about the people who have already worked hard their whole lives to pay off their student loans, whether they be Black, Brown, White, male, female. Who cares?

They have worked their whole life. They paid off their student loans. They did what they were supposed to do, or they are in the middle of paying off their student loans. Oh, no, let's just go down here. One of my colleagues just said \$50,000, President Biden. Did they just pick that number out of the air? \$50,000 of free stuff, here you go.

Somebody else chose not to go to college. Somebody else started a business, worked hard, borrowed money to run a business. Guess what? That money also had interest, to my colleague from Michigan who was down here talking about, oh, the pain of interest. As if it is not as old as time, as if it is not Biblical to say: Hey, I don't have the money to do something. I would like to have the money to do something. How might I get the money to do something? I don't know. One, get a job and earn the money, save the money. Two, ask for it from somebody who loves you. Three, borrow it.

Okay, now what do you do with that? Go do something with it. Make a choice. Start a business. Start a lemonade stand. Go to college if you want. But, oh, no, let's just go pay off \$1.7 trillion of debt. It doesn't matter if you went to school and got a degree in sociology or gender studies and you are floating around and trying to figure out what you are going to do with your life. Oh, no, let's pay off that \$140,000.

There ain't no free lunch. But we live in this fiction that we can just keep printing money, and the horrors of printing the money is not just that we have \$30 trillion in debt; it is not just that we have rampant inflation; it is not just that we are undermining our dollar; it is not just that we are handing over power to China and every other country around the world to kick our rear ends; it is that we are funding a government to do things to us to interfere with us.

We are funding an FBI to target parents for daring to question the wisdom of school boards around this country. People say: Oh, that is not true. You must be embellishing.

It is not true? We just had hearings with the Attorney General of the United States. We just saw memoranda making it very clear that the FBI is targeting parents. We are funding that.

For all Americans out there watching this, all 12 of you, we are funding

that. We are borrowing dollars, spending money we don't have, and we are taking those dollars, and we are funding an FBI to target parents.

We are taking away dollars from police departments, and Federal dollars are going in and funding programs allegedly to take the place of police and then wondering why department stores are getting looted.

Then you have the White House press secretary today literally at the podium saying that is the fault of the pandemic, all the looting. We are not talking about somebody breaking into a grocery store to buy a loaf of bread. We are talking about people swarming a department store and taking Gucci bags.

Oh, no, let's not enforce the law. Let's not enforce the rule of law. Let's blame it on the pandemic. Let's blame Border Patrol for whipping migrants, which was demonstrably and totally and clearly false.

There is no shame coming from the Press Secretary's Office of the White House. No lie that won't easily slip out about what is actually going on, like Border Patrol agents whipping migrants. No apology. All of those Border Patrol agents down there on the front lines dealing with COVID, dealing with being outmanned and outgunned, dealing with cartels, no apology.

Here we sit in the United States House of free stuff funding the Department of Homeland Security not to secure the homeland; funding the Department of Education not to educate our kids, other than to indoctrinate them to hate our country and to believe they are racist for the color of their skin; \$700 billion for a Department of Defense to now run climate training and to focus on chief diversity officers in the Department of Defense rather than focusing on, I don't know, blowing stuff up and killing people, which is what the Department of Defense, formerly known as the Department of War, is actually supposed to do; \$11 billion for an Internal Revenue Service that took a record \$4 trillion from Americans last fiscal year; \$9 billion for an EPA that is destroying American energy through regulation, pushing a radical climate agenda. None of which, by the way, is actually going to drive down CO₂ production, which we have been doing with clean-burning American natural gas over the last decade.

Today, we pass this continuing resolution in the United States House of free stuff to rack up another trillion dollars of debt, continuing to fund agencies to carry out their tyrannical activities, in particular to carry out vaccine mandates on the American people that are getting slapped down one by one by courts across this country because, of course, the President of the United States doesn't have the authority or the power to mandate that an American citizen go into a doctor's office and get a needle jabbed in their arm. He doesn't have that power.

The United States House of free stuff here allegedly representing the people

is supposed to actually care enough about representing those people to stand here as a board holding the line against an authoritarian President of the United States, against a President carrying out executive overreach. That is what we see happening. He is being slapped down left and right by the courts.

Now, I don't believe in wearing a partisan hat when we are talking about standing up for the Constitution, standing up for the Article I branch of the Federal Government. I introduced legislation when the previous President, a Republican, President Trump, was in office called the Article I Act to take away powers from the President with respect to emergency powers being used. I did so, frankly, in the wake of the use of dollars for border fencing and wall construction, which I supported, which was important, which was a response to an emergency and, by the way, was working. But it was important for us to start laying out a foundation for protecting Article I, the United States Congress.

Today we pass a continuing resolution that we sent over to the United States Senate, and we never had a vote in this body about the vaccine mandates that are being slapped down in courts across this country for being unlawful, unconstitutional, tyrannical overreach by the executive branch of the United States.

Never in our history have we had Federal mandates applying across the country to the American citizens that they must be vaccinated. They have been local decisions, local schools, local counties in States and specific responses to highly communicable diseases that they knew might be communicable and be pulled back by a vaccine, and after many years of study with massive numbers of exemptions and protections for individual liberty and choice. That is the history of how we have handled it in a federalist 50-State republic, not a decision by a President or, frankly, probably more likely the President's advisers, that the American people must be vaccinated, that a small business or a business of any size must vaccinate their employees.

People act like, well, it is no big deal. I ought to direct my remarks here to my Republican colleagues, my Republican colleagues who today were perfectly happy to vote no on this CR. Yes, I will go home, and I will give a speech: I voted no on this CR. I voted no because this continuing resolution had these terrible provisions in it. And, yes, this continuing resolution had vaccine mandate funding, funding the Department of Labor and funding OSHA and funding the Department of Defense to carry out these mandates. I voted no, don't you know.

So what? Who cares if you voted no? You vote no, and you give a speech, pat yourself on the back. Good for you. Did you do anything, go stand with any of the Senators who had a chance to actu-

ally do something with this, with the Senators over there right now having a debate and trying to force a vote on an amendment to prevent the tyrannical application of vaccine mandates?

Did my colleagues say let's go round up and go over and stand alongside MIKE LEE, or did they hide behind the Article III judiciary? Did they hide behind the courts and say, well, let's let the courts sort it out. No, that is exactly what they did. Secure the blessings of liberty in the Constitution indeed by the supposed primary branch of government.

□ 2000

And these have real consequences for real Americans, real lives. Hospitals in Massachusetts are already limiting elective procedures due to critical staffing shortages. Do we care? Are we concerned about that?

The New York Governor issued an executive order that postponed elective surgeries in order to deal with the staffing shortages. Do we care? Are we concerned?

The largest children's hospital in Wisconsin is struggling to treat victims of the BLM extremist, who rammed his car through the Waukesha Christmas parade. Do we care?

A dear friend of mind suffering from multiple sclerosis, teaching at the university, she is being told she may not be able to continue teaching because she believes, in consultation with her doctor, that it is in her best interest not to be vaccinated at this time. She should have the right and the ability to choose to do that for her and her family and her interest without coercion from an overextended Federal Government under an unlawful and unconstitutional mandate by the President of the United States.

And this body, the Congress of the United States, should do its Article I job and stand up in defense of her and every other American who is facing losing their job at Thanksgiving and Christmas, or being discharged from the military of the United States that they proudly served because they believe in their interest, in their own personal safety, their own health interest, that they should be the one to choose, not a faraway President.

We structured this government specifically not to do this. We structured this government with Federalism and separation of powers specifically to avoid having a king. That man on the painting over on this wall, in this House Chamber, the first President of the United States, turned down being a king, turned down the monarchy, turned down a third term because the Founders knew why that mattered. The Founders knew why separating powers and limiting powers mattered because they saw and foresaw exactly what we are seeing today in this country and across the world. Where, in Austria and Germany and Australia and places around the world, we see mandates forcing people to be in their homes and

not go out and not engage in society because they are not vaccinated. It is absurd.

This country is built on a bedrock of liberty and protecting liberty and securing the blessings of liberty, and this President is stepping on it. And the United States Congress, Members of both parties, are MIA, missing in action, unwilling to stand up in defense of liberty while patting themselves on the back for voting “no” on a continuing resolution and then kicking it over to the Senate for one man to stand on the floor of the United States Senate, Senator MIKE LEE, daring to say we should have a vote on an amendment, an amendment that says we shouldn’t have this vaccine mandate. God bless MIKE LEE for doing that. I hope he holds to his guns.

And no, I am not going to freak out or panic if Saturday at 12:05 in the morning rolls around and, Oh, no, we haven’t gotten that funding done. That funding, by the way, that is racking up, as I said before, another trillion dollars of debt. The United States House of free stuff.

A father called me up in tears because his 13-year Army veteran son is likely going to be discharged because he believes, based on his conversation with his doctors, that it is not in his interest to get the vaccination. Millions of Americans who know they have natural immunity, who have been ignored, who have been absolutely ignored because the leaders of our national health organizations and agencies aren’t actually focusing on natural immunity. We haven’t had a study on natural immunity of any consequence out of our leaders. We have got to rely on Israel and the U.K. and other places, and private entities. But all of these millions of Americans who have natural immunity are being told, Sorry, you must still go get a needle stuck in your arm in order to have a job.

In what world is this the land of the free? It is not. And in what world are the people in this Chamber who are supposed to represent the people of the United States, how are they doing their job in the Article I branch of our Federal Government if they are not standing up for these people?

Those people who are going about their lives, making decisions in our interests—and by the way, as if this matters to me a whole lot—that even the experts, so-called, heading up our national health agencies and organizations, acknowledge that if you are vaccinated you still spread the daggone virus. It literally makes no sense.

We are killing people. We are restraining and restricting therapeutics that can actually help people. We belittle people who are working in consultation with doctors to find ways to solve the problem if they happen to get the virus—whether they have been vaccinated or not, by the way. And we are mandating people to get the vaccination, irrespective of whether they had the virus and have natural immunity.

For months, I have been hearing about, Oh, they laugh off natural immunity. And now suddenly, you start to hear—bow down to the altar of all things—Dr. Fauci, that he suddenly said, Oh, yeah, natural immunity, that is kind of a real thing. No kidding.

What world do you live in? The world of Washingtonian magazine and propping your feet up with sunglasses and getting cool pictures and throwing baseballs out at games?

I had a young woman who is 9 months pregnant. Remember all the frontline workers everybody was celebrating a year ago? She is one of them; she is a nurse. I saw all these people standing up at games, people in this Chamber going around praising the frontline workers. Well, good, we should have been praising the frontline workers who are out there, in an unknown virus, showing up and helping those who were sick. But suddenly now, if you are one of those frontline workers, and for your own health and well-being, you decide you don’t believe you should be vaccinated, you might have natural immunity, maybe you have got an underlying condition and you choose not to. Then this young lady, a Texan, who is 9 months pregnant, is losing her job in direct response to the President’s unlawful and unconstitutional mandates.

Let’s talk about those mandates for a minute.

The OSHA mandate. When the President goes in and tells businesses across this country, You must get your employees vaccinated or go through OSHA rulings and fines. This body just voted to increase the OSHA fines, something like 700 percent or 900 percent. We just did that when we passed the so-called BBB bill that is going to destroy America with a whole bunch of more free stuff, \$2 trillion of unpaid nonsense.

Oh, no, don’t worry. It’s paid for. CBO said so. Garbage. Absolute, pure garbage. Of course, it is not paid for. It was games. The American people know all this. It is how this body works. Nobody here is serious about actually operating within the bounds of normalcy, like you would in a business or in your home, because they don’t care. There is no consequence. There is literally no consequence to spending money we don’t have, to printing money. But that is what we do.

So we just voted to increase fines by OSHA. Now with those fines OSHA can go target businesses.

Well, what happened? Now, that has been consolidated. U.S. District judge for the Eastern District of Missouri granted a preliminary injunction on November 29 for 10 States who brought forth a November 10 lawsuit by State AGs.

On December 1, in a similar ruling, Louisiana Western District U.S. Judge Terry Doughty issued a nationwide injunction to the CMS mandate, a separate mandate, a CMS mandate—sorry, I mixed these up.

The OSHA mandate, a panel of judges with the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals issued an order staying enforcement and implementation of the OSHA mandate.

Now, back to the CMS mandate. Matt Schelp, the U.S. District judge for the Eastern District of Missouri, granted a preliminary injunction for 10 States. And on December 1, in a similar ruling, there is a nationwide injunction on the CMS mandates. So these are the mandates that are shutting down hospitals and nurses and doctors from carrying out their job.

My colleagues on the other side of the aisle don’t care. And I know they don’t care because they just passed a continuing resolution continuing to fund the mandates of a tyrannical executive branch without holding him accountable.

□ 2010

I promise you if that were a Republican President they would be outraged at these mandates. My colleagues on this side of the aisle think voting “no” and walking out to go to dinner is perfectly fine because that is what is going on here. They are not over in the Senate backing up MIKE LEE or here talking.

Federal workers mandate, Federal contractors mandate—on November 30, U.S. District Judge Gregory Van Tatenhove of the Eastern District of Kentucky issued a preliminary injunction halting the government’s enforcement of the Federal contractor vaccine mandate, which, by the way, is mandating universities, which is causing my friend with MS to possibly or probably lose her teaching job.

Veterans, Active Duty military, frontline health workers, university teachers, professors, visiting professors, people across this country in private business—hopefully, the courts will strike this down. Since when is it the job of the Article I Congress to punt to the courts, and say, Well, I hope you do it.

Do we care about the power of the purse?

Do we care if bureaucrats are targeting American citizens, saying, You must get a needle in your arm?

There is no science indicating in any way, shape, or form that those mandates are solving any problem at all, but rather causing problems. Over 80 percent of Americans over the age of 12 years old have gotten one shot of the vaccine; 99 percent or something close to it are people over 65.

We are not even a year into the broad rollout of the vaccines. This blows way past the polio epidemic. My dad had polio. I am well-versed in the impacts of the polio epidemic. It didn’t roll out nearly this fast. It was targeted at kids, not people over 65.

Any mandates were left to school districts, and it took them awhile to get there. This was a vaccine that had been worked on for years with a significant amount of knowledge. It was a different kind of virus, by the way, not a coronavirus.

A 21-year-old nursing assistant in Crawfordsville, Indiana, worked 60-hour weeks throughout the pandemic; she is facing termination. Do we care? Does the Indiana delegation care? Either side of the aisle? I would like to know.

Is the Indiana delegation over along-side MIKE LEE fighting to prevent the funding of the government bureaucrats that are going to enforce that mandate on Becca Pitts?

Jen Peters, a 39-year-old San Diego maternity nurse was forced to resign from her position after not getting vaccinated.

I recently met with heart surgeons that fly around the country saving lives doing heart surgeries. They come in and they do that. They do pro bono work. They do a lot of volunteer work. They fly all over the world. They have been providers for, roughly, three decades, and if the CMS mandates stay in place, they are no longer going to be able to save lives, they will have to shut down. Are we fine with that? Is that okay?

Dozens of my constituents in the military have contacted me about this vaccine mandate. I represent thousands—like many of us do—but I represent San Antonio, a heavy population of veterans and Active Duty military. People call me in tears because it was their dream to serve their country and wear the uniform of the United States, and they are being told they must get the jab, or they will be discharged.

I am not talking about the ability of a commander of a submarine going out for a 9-month tour, and saying, Okay. Sorry. I am going to make sure everybody in the submarine is vaccinated. Okay. Do you have to discharge the guy or gal? Or you can say, You know what, we are going to relocate you and leave you able to serve. But while this virus is going around, we are going to require the commander of the submarine to be able to make that decision. Okay. That is a reasonable outcome.

Discharging under current law dishonorably, by the way, members of the United States military for not wanting to get the vaccine, for whatever reason they believe is in their interest, with young men in particular having concerns about the myocarditis and the heart issues, and we are going to say, Sorry, too bad, you get discharged.

This body just funded the DOD, and the government is forcing those people to be discharged, instead of continuing to carry out their service to this country, and this body should be ashamed of it.

A lot of people in this town seem to have forgotten that the American people are not our subjects. They are our fellow citizens, and we owe them the duty of representing them. They are our neighbors, our relatives, our friends. The people are sovereign in this country, not the President.

George Washington turned that down, the Founders rejected that

structure, and yet this body, which was supposed to be a check against an overbearing executive acting as a monarch refuses to check the executive.

The CDC estimates that there have been 146 million infections, suggesting that nearly half of the United States has natural immunity.

The first U.S. omicron patient was fully vaccinated and had mild symptoms. One study found the protective effect of the vaccine dwindles alarmingly at 3 months after the second shot, hence, the boosters. People are now saying that maybe we made a mistake, having the first two shots of the vaccine happen right next to each other reduced the effectiveness. Well, lo and behold, hard to believe when you are rushing and reacting to a virus that you might make an error.

Financial institutions today are putting out reports saying their concern isn't about the omicron variant but rather governments' reaction to it. Of course, it is. One of the first doctors who discovered the variant in South Africa said, "Most of the patients are seeing very, very mild symptoms. We have been able to treat these patients conservatively at home."

On the 626th day into 15 days to slow the spread, we have had enough. The American people have had enough of being lied to and told what to do by a tyrannical Federal Government and so-called experts that we cannot and should not trust.

This continuing resolution that we passed today was considered under a closed rule. As I said earlier, no chance for amending it. I offered an amendment upstairs—rejected. We don't want to have a debate on vaccine mandates. Why would we want to do that?

My colleagues, I assume, would not like to take a vote on a vaccine mandate funding repeal. Otherwise, why not have the vote? Why not have the debate? The more and more that we turn over the decisionmaking to a small group of people in this body and a small group of people in the Senate and a couple of people at the other end of Pennsylvania Avenue, the more and more this Republic is getting ripped apart thread by thread. It is happening no matter who is in the White House and no matter who is in charge of this body.

□ 2020

If we do not restore debate on the floor of this body and in the Senate—the greatest deliberative body in the world. Come on.

When was the last time you saw any great debate or deliberation in that body or this one, Madam Speaker?

You don't. We all know it. Nobody cares because all we are going to do is drop another 2,000-page bill, somebody is going to offer a motion to recommit. Boy, that will light things on fire. Oh, the previous question. Oh, man, the bars around town are talking about you.

Did you see that previous question?

Did you see that MTR?

When are we going to represent the people again?

When is this institution going to actually stand up and do the hard part of representation?

We don't govern. We use that term a lot. We don't govern. We represent. That is what we are supposed to do in a republic.

Next week we are going to turn to the National Defense Authorization Act, and if the Senate doesn't make any additional modifications, we are going to have another version of the NDAA, the National Defense Authorization Act, sent over to this Chamber for us to vote on again. In that legislation there are a number of problematic provisions. There is no accountability for the failed exit from Afghanistan, the 13 marines who died, the failed drone strike that led to the killing of 10 people including seven children. No accountability.

There is no accountability for the \$85 billion of assets left behind in Afghanistan that were just being used in a parade by our enemies, by the Taliban. No accountability.

Madam Speaker, you have legislation that requires the Secretary of Defense to submit to Congress their plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and praises the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. Well, praise the Lord. Our Department of Defense is focused on the really important stuff as China is doubling and tripling and quadrupling their navy, ramping up their military prowess, and shooting missiles around the Earth at low orbit hitting their targets. Yes. Let's focus on diversity. Yes. That will get them.

That NDAA requires the DOD to hire and train gender advisers. Boy, that will send the Chinese packing.

Yes, the National Defense Authorization Act will for the first time in the history of this country require women—girls—18 years and older to register for Selective Service, to register to be eligible for the draft.

My daughter is 10 years old. The infinite wisdom of this body is going to require that my daughter be forced to register for the draft. If we want to have a debate about ending the draft, I am happy to do it. Let's offer the bill, let's have a debate and decide if we need to draft. I think most people in this body would probably vote the draft down. But that is not what we are going to do because my colleagues on the other side of the aisle and, frankly, the retreat by my colleagues on my side of the aisle from such touchy issues, they want to make a statement. They want to make a statement about so-called equity, and they want to use my daughter to make that statement. They want to make your daughter, America, part of that statement.

If you are one of the thousands of people across this country who have been reaching out to my office enraged because this body with no debate, no amendment, and no vote on the substance is going to adopt the National

Defense Authorization Act that for the first time in history will require your daughter, your sister, your mom, and your wife to register for the draft. Well, don't worry, I am going to keep fighting it.

I am not going to retreat, and I am not going to run away from some pollster coming in saying, Well, I don't know. I am not sure how people feel about it.

I know how people feel about it. I know how they feel about it in my district. I know how they feel about it in my kids' school, in my communities. I know the people who have stop me in the airport saying thank you for standing up for some sort of common sense about how we should actually function as a society.

Speaking of the United States House of free stuff, we spent \$36 million for a study to determine whether single-sex units performed better or worse than mixed-sex units.

What do you think they found?

Madam Speaker, you will be blown away by this piece of information. The single-sex male units performed better. Oh, we don't want to have that talk. My colleagues don't want to have that debate. But I am going to keep having that debate.

Whatever they do at the NDAA, if the Senate doesn't have the backbone, if my Republican colleagues in the United States Senate won't stand up for my daughter—our daughters—I will keep calling them out, every single one of them. I will call on every one of my colleagues in this body, and I sure as heck will not ever vote for a single one of them for any office if they are going to make my daughter eligible for the draft.

This is not the way we should do things.

Have a debate, offer data, have amendments, have the courage to have straight up-or-down votes on subjects rather than mega bills cooked up in back rooms so people can go preen and posture in front of cameras outside on the steps.

No matter who is in charge of this body, restore this body, and don't continue to operate as the United States House of free stuff doling out dollar after dollar and printing money to create programs that we can't even afford and to fundamentally alter and transform this society into one that is expected from government rather than serving themselves, their fellow man, and their communities.

We are destroying the core of this great country by empowering government and doing so knowing full well we don't have the dollars or the resources to do it; knowing full well that we are ripping out the soul of people by taking away the value of work; and destroying family units; destroying the public education system, by turning them into political corruption entities. The veil having been lifted now after COVID has exposed so much of that corruption, and what we just saw in

Loudoun County, Virginia, what we just saw unfold in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

The American people are seeing the corruption that flows from the dollars that flow from this town without any responsibility. Again, that is not a partisan statement. Both sides are equally guilty of walking into this Chamber and writing checks they can't cash. And if we don't stop it, this country will not survive. This country will not make it. We will not keep the Republic if we keep spending money we don't have. If we keep turning over power to a small group of individuals in this Chamber, the other Chamber, the other end of Pennsylvania Avenue and, oh, by the way, the courts to make decisions rather than the people's Representatives.

It is time, Madam Speaker, for this body to function again. And it is time for us to do it without regard to who is in the other end of Pennsylvania Avenue in the White House. We have a duty in Article I to use the power of the purse responsibly, to stand up for the people, to defend the people, and to stop the encroachment in their lives by unelected bureaucrats or a President using power that has now already in three different courts been found to be unconstitutionally and unlawfully executed against the people while they are lose their jobs, lose their livelihoods, destroy their lives because they want to make a decision that they believe is in the interest of them and their families.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 5344

Mr. MFUME. Madam Speaker, I hereby remove my name as a cosponsor of H.R. 5344.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman's request is accepted.

□ 2030

OXFORD HIGH SCHOOL MASS SHOOTING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2021, the Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. SLOTKIN) for 30 minutes.

Ms. SLOTKIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in the shadow of a terrible tragedy that has shaken my district and the entire State of Michigan to its core.

Oxford, Michigan, is a quiet town in northern Oakland County. It is a small, close-knit community where folks know and care for each other. But just 2 days ago, in less than 5 minutes, the heart of the town was ripped out in a flurry of screams and gunfire.

On Tuesday, a 15-year-old boy walked into his Oxford High School and took the lives of four of his fellow students, four young Michiganders with their entire lives ahead of them.

I mentioned them in our moment of silence, but it bears repeating.

Hana St. Juliana was an exuberant freshman on the volleyball and basketball team. She babysat for a friend of mine and brought joy to all who knew her. She made her high school debut on the basketball team on Monday night. Hana was 14 years old.

Madisyn Baldwin was going to graduate this year, and she had already been accepted to several colleges, some with a full scholarship. She had a younger half-brother and two sisters, and her friends described her as an artist who loved to draw and read and write. Madisyn was 17.

Tate Myre was a tight end and running back on the varsity football team and an honor student. Already, there is a petition with more than 80,000 signatures circulating to rename Oxford's football stadium in honor of Tate. He was 16 years old.

Justin Shilling was a senior getting ready for life after high school. He was the co-captain of the school's bowling team, and he worked part time at Anita's Kitchen, a restaurant in nearby Lake Orion. Justin was 17.

The loss of these four young people has ripped a hole in our community, and the trauma inflicted on their friends and classmates will never fully subside.

No one has been left unscathed. The aftershocks of the senseless act of violence are being felt across the State, most clearly in the 60 school districts that have been forced to cancel school out of an abundance of caution due to copycat threats.

All of us can see ourselves in the parents, students, and teachers at Oxford, but we can't begin to imagine their pain.

As agonizing as the last few days have been, the place to take solace is in the incredible response of the hundreds of first responders who jumped into action to end the violence before more lives were taken.

Yesterday, I visited the professionals at the Oakland County Operations Center, which was the eye of the hurricane on Tuesday, and heard firsthand accounts of heroism, bravery, and dedication under extreme stress.

In the darkness of the event, the light we should try and focus on is that, in our hour of need, our first responders were trained and ready. They did not hesitate. In the span of just a few minutes, the gunman fired 30 shots, hitting 11 people. Four of them are dead.

When the gunman was stopped by law enforcement inside the school, he had 18 rounds left. I shudder to think about how much more damage could have been done if those officers hadn't stopped him so quickly.

The people who responded on Tuesday saved lives unequivocally. The training, speed, and efficiency of those on site made all the difference, and I want to speak directly to them for a moment.

First, to the teachers who have been through so much in these last 2 years and who jumped into action when the crisis struck; to the police officers and sheriff's deputies who headed straight into the school without hesitation and who told me, "We were going inside no matter what. We were never going to simply stage outside and wait to assess the risks to ourselves"; to all the firefighters and first responders from our area and well beyond who didn't wait for direction and simply steamed straight for Oxford; to the 911 dispatch operators who took more than 100 calls from terrified children whispering and crying from their hiding places, and the dispatch shift leaders who ran the massive logistical operation to coordinate over 300 first responders at the school; and to the doctors, nurses, EMS, and hospital staff who put emergency procedures in place and all answered the call to help, what you did saved children, and teachers, and administrators.

You saved someone's child, someone's brother, someone's mom. You kept people on this Earth for their families to cherish and hold close. And every one of them will remember that day and the role you played. There are children in that school who will go on to be police officers and firefighters and doctors because of how you responded this week, and for that, we owe you so much.

Madam Speaker, over the last few days, I have thought a great deal about the sacrifices we ask our kids to make and the burdens we ask them to bear. We are all so exhausted seeing fleeing students, panicked parents, and bewildered teachers.

The inescapable conclusion we must draw is that we are failing our children, not just failing to keep them safe but failing to set an example. Our daily rhetoric continues to deteriorate. Threats of violence are commonplace.

As someone who worked alongside the military for years, I was trained that leadership climate is set at the top. Whether you are the leader of a platoon or a small town, or simply the head of a household, the leadership style you use in your own life will be internalized by those you lead. It will become the standard. Nowhere is this more clear than with our kids.

The hard truth is that violence, including gun violence, has become normal. Threatening someone online has become normal. Inciting violence and calling for violence has become normal. People do it online, in neighborhood forums, at school board meetings, at hospitals, on airplanes, and even on the steps of this Capitol, like it is nothing at all, like it is somehow part of their freedom of speech. But it is not.

Threatening other people is where our freedom of speech ends. But how are kids to understand that? How are they to rationalize the lessons they learned in kindergarten to treat others as we would like to be treated if they see adults demonstrating the opposite?

That betrayal has taken hold in the roots of our communities. Not a day goes by that I don't hear about it, and our kids are watching our every move.

This tragedy also makes clear that we are in desperate need of mental health support for our young people. Services and providers are scarce, and there is no way of meeting the need, especially in the wake of COVID.

Our children are using violence, contemplating suicide, and generally struggling more than at any other time in our history, and we must acknowledge that and provide the resources to our communities to manage the demand.

In these first 48 hours since the attack, that is where my office and so many others have been trying to engage, to find Federal money, to find State money. We need to address the mental health crisis in this country with the seriousness that it demands or be prepared to live with the consequences.

In the immediate aftermath of tragedy, in these moments of intense suffering, there is often a need to understand what to do with our pain by jumping into politics and policy. I must admit, I am torn about that discussion because my community is still reeling from the crisis, and our attention has been focused on immediate crisis response.

But there are some basic facts that simply can't be swept under the rug: that a deadly weapon purchased legally fell into the hands of a 15-year-old child. I come from a family of gun owners. I was trained to carry two different firearms on my person at all times during my three tours with the CIA in Iraq.

But if a 15-year-old boy can get ahold of a weapon purchased by his father on a Friday and use it to terrorize and murder his classmates on a Tuesday, something in our country is horribly wrong.

Whether we like it or not, Oxford will be a town that our kids read about, joining a long list of communities that have become synonymous with the greatest tragedies our country has seen: Columbine, Virginia Tech, Sandy Hook, Parkland, Santa Fe, and so many more.

This is, sadly, not a new set of issues. Long before the events in Oxford, the U.S. House passed a bill requiring basic background checks for purchases of any and all guns, just like we do at Walmart now.

This bill had both Democratic and Republican cosponsors. It was one of those rare instances of this body rising to the occasion with some basic common sense. We voted on this bill a few years ago in the last Congress, and we voted on it again this last March 2021.

That bill is currently sitting in the U.S. Senate. It could be voted on tomorrow if there was a will to act.

Please, to our colleagues in the Senate, take up this important bipartisan legislation.

□ 2040

I am also focused on what it means to be a responsible gun owner. Michigan is full of them, including my own family. But if you are going to own a gun, you should be responsible for storing it safely and for taking basic steps to ensure that the gun doesn't end up in the hands of a child or a criminal or a dangerous person. Adults should be held accountable for how they handle their guns.

This is an issue we are particularly watching in Oxford, where the Oakland County prosecutor is considering charging the parents of the shooter for their child's access to that gun. This is one of the areas we are looking at for additional legislation, and I know that a similar bill is being looked at in the Michigan legislature.

In the coming days and week, more facts will emerge from this horrible tragedy and help guide our thinking on how to ensure that our children—Hana, Madisyn, Tate, and Justin—did not die in vain.

To my colleagues in both parties, I look to you all, every single one of you, to join me in recognizing the pain that our community is going through and to make sure it means something.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

ADJOURNMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 11(b) of House Resolution 188, the House stands adjourned until 9 a.m. tomorrow.

Thereupon (at 8 o'clock and 41 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Friday, December 3, 2021, at 9 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

EC-2802. A letter from the Associate Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Bifenthrin; Pesticide Tolerances [EPA-HQ-OPP-2016-0352 and EPA-HQ-OPP-2019-0560; FRL-8945-01-OCSP] received November 18, 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-2803. A letter from the Associate Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Air Plan Approval; California; San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District; Stationary Source Permits [EPA-R09-OAR-2020-0238; FRL-8896-02-R9] received November 18, 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-2804. A letter from the Associate Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Arkansas: Final Authorization of State Hazardous Waste Management Program Revision [EPA-R06-RCRA-2021-0073; FRL-8800-02-R6] received November 18, 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C.

801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-2805. A letter from the Associate Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Air Plan Approval; ID; West Silver Valley Redesignation to Attainment for the 2012 Annual PM_{2.5} Standard [EPA-R10-OAR-2020-0305; FRL-8878-02-R10] received November 18, 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-2806. A letter from the Director, Office of Acquisition Policy, Office of Government-wide Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting the Administration's summary presentation of final rules — Federal Acquisition Regulation; Federal Acquisition Circular 2022-01; Introduction [Docket No.: FAR-2021-0051, Sequence No. 5] received November 15, 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

EC-2807. A letter from the Director, Office of Acquisition Policy, Office of Government-wide Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Federal Acquisition Regulation: Revision of Definition of "Commercial Item" [FAC 2022-01; FAR Case 2018-018; Item I; Docket No.: FAR-2018-0018, Sequence No. 1] (RIN: 9000-AN76) received November 15, 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

EC-2808. A letter from the Director, Office of Acquisition Policy, Office of Government-wide Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting the Administration's small entity compliance guide — Federal Acquisition Regulation; Federal Acquisition Circular 2022-01; Small Entity Compliance Guide [Docket No.: FAR-2021-0051, Sequence No. 5] received November 15, 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

EC-2809. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Affairs and C.A., Office of the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Election of Officers of the Osage Minerals Council [212A2100DD/AAKC001030/A0A501010.999900] (RIN: 1076-AF58) received October 26, 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

EC-2810. A letter from the Regulatory Specialist, Office of Natural Resources Revenue, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — ONRR 2020 Valuation Reform and Civil Penalty Rule: Delay of Effective Date [Docket No.: ONRR-2020-0001; DS63644000DRTO000000.CH7000 212D1113RT] (RIN: 1012-AA27) received October 20, 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

EC-2811. A letter from the Agency Representative, United States Patent and Trademark Office, Department of Commerce, transmitting the Department's final rule — Changes to Implement Provisions of the Trademark Modernization Act of 2020 [Docket No.: PTO-T-2021-0008] (RIN: 0651-AD55) received November 18, 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-2812. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Class D and Class E Airspace;

Fort Leonard Wood, MO [Docket No.: FAA-2021-0634; Airspace Docket No.: 21-ACE-19] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received November 18, 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-2813. A letter from the Assistant Chief Counsel for Regulatory Affairs, Office of Chief Counsel, Pipeline and Hazardous Material Safety Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Pipeline Safety: Safety of Gas Gathering Pipelines: Extension of Reporting Requirements, Regulation of Large, High-Pressure Lines, and Other Related Amendments [Docket No.: PHMSA-2011-0023; Amdt. Nos. 191-30; 192-129] (RIN: 2137-AF38) received November 18, 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-2814. A letter from the Federal Register Liaison Officer, Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's final rule — Establishment of the Verde Valley Viticultural Area [Docket No.: TTB-2020-0002; T.D. TTB-174; Ref. Notice No. 187] (RIN: 1513-AC54) received November 26, 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mrs. TORRES of California: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 829. A resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 6119) making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2022, and for other purposes; and for other purposes (Rept. 117-201). Referred to the House Calendar.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Ms. DELAURO:

H.R. 6119. A bill making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2022, and for other purposes; to the Committees on Appropriations and the Budget; considered and passed.

By Mrs. BICE of Oklahoma (for herself, Mr. ELLZEY, Mr. LUCAS, Mr. FALLON, Mr. BABIN, Mr. HERN, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. JACKSON, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. PFLUGER, and Mr. TONY GONZALES of Texas):

H.R. 6120. A bill to direct the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to establish a grant program to reimburse individuals for loss or damage to property near the southern border of the United States caused by an individual illegally crossing the border, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security, and in addition to the Committee on Appropriations, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. SEWELL (for herself and Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio):

H.R. 6121. A bill to improve the administration of antidumping and countervailing duty laws; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. MALLIOTAKIS (for herself, Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. JACOBS of New York, Mr. MEUSER, Mrs. HARSHBARGER, Mr. GIMENEZ, Mr. HERN, Ms. MACE, Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania, Mr. GUTHRIE, Mr. MOORE of Alabama, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. NORMAN, Mr. BERGMAN, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, Mr. CAWTHORN, Mr. OWENS, Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, Mr. MCKINLEY, Mr. STEUBE, Mr. SIMPSON, and Mr. CLINE):

H.R. 6122. A bill to prohibit the payment of certain legal settlements to individuals who unlawfully entered the United States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. SALAZAR (for herself, Ms. STEFANK, Mrs. SPARTZ, Mr. SMUCKER, Ms. FOX, Mr. GIMENEZ, Mr. OWENS, Mr. POSEY, Mr. HUDSON, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, Mr. BLIRAKIS, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. NEHLS, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. BOST, Mr. DUNN, Mr. JACKSON, Mr. RUTHERFORD, Mr. BABIN, Mr. CRAWFORD, Mr. MOONEY, Mr. JACOBS of New York, Mr. BAIRD, Mr. C. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida, Mr. WALTZ, Mr. MCKINLEY, Mr. DONALDS, Mr. STEUBE, Mr. SCHWEIKERT, Mr. BUDD, Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS, Mr. BUCHANAN, Mr. GROTHMAN, Mr. HILL, Mr. CAWTHORN, Mrs. CAMMACK, Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, Mr. DUNCAN, Mr. UPTON, Ms. MALLIOTAKIS, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. GOHMERT, Mr. BISHOP of North Carolina, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. KATKO, Mr. BURCHETT, Mr. CARTER of Georgia, Mrs. MCCLAIN, Mr. PFLUGER, Mr. VAN DREW, Mr. TONY GONZALES of Texas, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. COLE, Mr. TIMMONS, Mr. MELJER, Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, Mr. FALLON, Mr. JOYCE of Ohio, Mrs. STEEL, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Mr. VALADAO, and Mr. SESSIONS):

H.R. 6123. A bill to develop and disseminate a civic education curriculum and oral history resources regarding certain political ideologies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. BROWN of Maryland (for himself, Mr. KELLY of Mississippi, and Mr. RYAN):

H.R. 6124. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to increase the maximum guaranty amount for loans made to certain veterans under the laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. CARTER of Louisiana:

H.R. 6125. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Education to discharge or cancel Federal student loan liability for borrowers of disaster loans under section 7(b) of the Small Business Act made on or after January 1, 2020, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. COURTNEY (for himself and Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota):

H.R. 6126. A bill to provide that, due to the disruptions caused by COVID-19, applications for impact aid funding for fiscal year 2023 may use certain data submitted in the fiscal year 2022 application; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. DIAZ-BALART (for himself, Mr. CUELLAR, Ms. GRANGER, Mr. PANNETTA, and Mr. RUTHERFORD):

H.R. 6127. A bill to amend title 4, United States Code, to ensure that a funeral honors detail recites the 13 Folds of Honor when presenting a flag of the United States in connection with the death of a member of the Armed Forces or veteran; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. GOHMERT (for himself, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. CRAWFORD, and Ms. SALAZAR):

H.R. 6128. A bill to direct the President to impose duties on merchandise from the People's Republic of China to compensate holders of United States intellectual property rights for losses resulting from violations of such intellectual property rights in China, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. JOYCE of Ohio (for himself and Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ):

H.R. 6129. A bill to authorize the Attorney General to make grants to States and units of local government to reduce the financial and administrative burden of expunging convictions for cannabis offenses, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. LONG:

H.R. 6130. A bill to modify the boundary of the Wilson's Creek National Battlefield in the State of Missouri, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mrs. LURIA (for herself and Mr. NEHLS):

H.R. 6131. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to send electronic notice to claimants under laws administered by the Secretary; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. NEHLS (for himself, Mr. YOUNG, Ms. STEFANIK, Mr. CUELLAR, Mr. BABIN, Mr. JACKSON, Mr. CARTER of Texas, Mr. MAST, Mr. ROUZER, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. BOST, Mr. GARCIA of California, Mr. MURPHY of North Carolina, and Mr. FALLON):

H.R. 6132. A bill to reauthorize the COPS grant program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. NORMAN (for himself, Mr. MASSIE, Mr. DUNCAN, Mr. PERRY, Mr. ROY, Mr. GOOD of Virginia, Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. CAWTHORN, Mr. POSEY, Mr. BISHOP of North Carolina, Mr. GOHMERT, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. BABIN, and Mrs. GREENE of Georgia):

H.R. 6133. A bill to require the Commissioner of Food and Drugs to make available for public inspection all records of information submitted to the Food and Drug Administration in conjunction with authorizing the emergency use of, or licensing, a COVID-19 vaccine; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Miss RICE of New York (for herself, Mr. GRIFFITH, Ms. CRAIG, and Mr. CRENSHAW):

H.R. 6134. A bill to authorize the regulation of interstate commerce with respect to food containing cannabidiol derived from hemp, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. RUSH (for himself and Mr. DUNCAN):

H.R. 6135. A bill to direct the Consumer Product Safety Commission to require portable generators to meet certain standards relating to carbon monoxide, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. SALAZAR (for herself, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. GIMENEZ, Mr. JONES, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. CRAWFORD, Mrs. MURPHY of Florida, Mr. MURPHY of North Carolina, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, Mr. RUTHERFORD, and Mr. GOHMERT):

H.R. 6136. A bill to extend duty-free treatment provided with respect to imports from Haiti under the Caribbean Basin Economic Recovery Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia (for himself, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. RYAN, Mr. FERGUSON, Mr. COHEN, and Mr. FITZPATRICK):

H.R. 6137. A bill to direct the Director of the National Science Foundation to award grants for, and support research on, the development of makerspaces, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

By Mr. SWALWELL (for himself, Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN, and Mr. BLUMENAUER):

H.R. 6138. A bill to enhance predisaster mitigation to prevent future natural disasters, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Ms. BARRAGÁN (for herself, Mr. KELLER, Mr. VEASEY, and Mrs. SPARTZ):

H. Res. 830. A resolution recognizing Inter-scholastic Athletic Administrators' Day on December 14, 2021; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. CONNOLLY (for himself and Mr. TURNER):

H. Res. 831. A resolution calling on the United States Government to uphold the founding democratic principles of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and establish a Center for Democratic Resilience within the headquarters of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. FOSTER (for himself, Mr. FORTENBERRY, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, Mr. COOPER, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. BERA, and Mr. LARSEN of Washington):

H. Res. 832. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives in support of the International Atomic Energy Agency's (IAEA) nuclear security role; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. PRICE of North Carolina (for himself and Mr. PFLUGER):

H. Res. 833. A resolution expressing support for Moldova's democracy, independence, and territorial integrity and strengthening United States and Moldova relations; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. WILSON of Florida (for herself, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. LAWSON of Florida, Mrs. DEMINGS, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. CRIST, Mr. DEUTCH, Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida, Mrs. MURPHY of Florida, Mr. SOTO, Mr. CLYBURN, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Ms. WATERS, Mr. MEEKS, Ms. JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. JEFFRIES, Ms. SEWELL, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Mr. CARSON, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. HORSFORD, Mr. RYAN, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mr. BOWMAN, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. ADAMS, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. EVANS, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. RUSH, and Ms. BROWN of Ohio):

H. Res. 834. A resolution honoring the life and legacy of Congresswoman Carrie Pittman Meek and commending her for her devotion to the Nation and its ideals; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Mr. YARMUTH (for himself, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. BACON, and Mr. YOUNG):

H. Res. 835. A resolution recognizing and supporting the goals and ideals of a National Runaway Prevention Month; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Ms. DELAURO:

H.R. 6119.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The principal constitutional authority for this legislation is clause 7 of section 9 of article I of the Constitution of the United States (the appropriation power), which states:

"No Money shall be drawn from the Treasury, but in Consequence of Appropriations made by Law"

In addition, clause 1 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution (the spending power) provides:

"The Congress shall have the Power . . . to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States"

Together, these specific constitutional provisions establish the congressional power of the purse, granting Congress the authority to appropriate funds, to determine their purpose, amount, and period of availability, and to set forth terms and conditions governing their use.

By Mrs. BICE of Oklahoma:

H.R. 6120.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution.

By Ms. SEWELL:

H.R. 6121.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution.

By Ms. MALLIOTAKIS:

H.R. 6122.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18: The Congress shall have Power to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Ms. SALAZAR:

H.R. 6123.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. BROWN of Maryland:

H.R. 6124.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, clause 18 provides Congress to: "make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution the foregoing powers, and all other powers vested by this constitution."

By Mr. CARTER of Louisiana:

H.R. 6125.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is introduced pursuant to the powers granted to Congress under the General Welfare Clause (Art. 1 Sec. 8 Cl. 1), the Commerce Clause (Art. 1 Sec. 8 Cl. 3), and

the Necessary and Proper Clause (Art. 1 Sec. 8 Cl. 18).

Further, this statement of constitutional authority is made for the sole purpose of compliance with clause 7 of Rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives and shall have no bearing on judicial review of the accompanying bill.

By Mr. COURTNEY:

H.R. 6126.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. DIAZ-BALART:

H.R. 6127.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. GOHMERT:

H.R. 6128.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3

By Mr. JOYCE of Ohio:

H.R. 6129.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, clause 18;

Article I, Section 8, clause 1

By Mr. LONG:

H.R. 6130.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mrs. LURIA:

H.R. 6131.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Section 8

By Mr. NEHLS:

H.R. 6132.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. NORMAN:

H.R. 6133.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Miss RICE of New York:

H.R. 6134.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. RUSH:

H.R. 6135.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Ms. SALAZAR:

H.R. 6136.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia:

H.R. 6137.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

to lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts, and Excises, to pay the Debts, and provide for the common Defense and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States.

By Mr. SWALWELL:

H.R. 6138.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution, specifically Clause 1 (relating to providing for the common defense and general welfare of the United States) and Clause 3 (related to regulation of Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with Indian tribes) and Clause 18 (relating to the power to make all laws nec-

essary and proper for carrying out the powers vested in Congress).

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 19: Mr. PFLUGER.

H.R. 310: Mr. PFLUGER, Mr. SCHIFF, and Mr. AMODEI.

H.R. 475: Mrs. DEMINGS, Mr. HUFFMAN, and Mr. GRIJALVA.

H.R. 541: Mr. FERGUSON.

H.R. 748: Mr. VEASEY, Mr. KEATING, Mr. GOMEZ, and Mr. CARTER of Louisiana.

H.R. 787: Mr. GIMENEZ.

H.R. 825: Ms. KELLY of Illinois and Mr. CÁRDENAS.

H.R. 911: Mr. DELGADO.

H.R. 971: Mrs. MURPHY of Florida, Mr. CUELLAR, and Mr. COSTA.

H.R. 1011: Mr. RUTHERFORD.

H.R. 1012: Mr. CORREA.

H.R. 1095: Mr. CALVERT.

H.R. 1155: Mr. TONY GONZALES of Texas.

H.R. 1179: Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY.

H.R. 1185: Mr. BACON.

H.R. 1201: Mr. DOGGETT, Mrs. FLETCHER, and Mr. KAEHELE.

H.R. 1235: Mr. BACON and Ms. JAYAPAL.

H.R. 1340: Mr. MCGOVERN.

H.R. 1346: Mr. GOTTHEIMER.

H.R. 1348: Mr. HUFFMAN.

H.R. 1384: Ms. BROWN of Ohio and Mr. REED.

H.R. 1385: Mr. PANETTA.

H.R. 1458: Ms. PORTER and Mr. HARDER of California.

H.R. 1568: Mr. BABIN, Mr. POSEY, and Mr. CRAWFORD.

H.R. 1577: Mr. COHEN.

H.R. 1596: Mr. TONKO, Mr. HORSFORD, Mr. MALINOWSKI, Mr. MOULTON, Mr. CARSON, Mrs. HAYES, and Mr. PAPPAS.

H.R. 1697: Ms. SCHRIER.

H.R. 1718: Mr. HICE of Georgia, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. MANN, and Mr. BUDD.

H.R. 1745: Mr. JACOBS of New York and Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 1931: Ms. STANSBURY.

H.R. 1946: Mr. LUETKEMEYER, Mr. DEFazio, Mrs. KIM of California, and Ms. MATSUI.

H.R. 1995: Mr. GARBARINO.

H.R. 2007: Mr. SCHNEIDER.

H.R. 2111: Ms. NEWMAN.

H.R. 2120: Mrs. STEEL.

H.R. 2126: Mr. MOULTON.

H.R. 2192: Ms. MENG and Mr. MCEACHIN.

H.R. 2249: Mr. CLINE, Mr. SCHRADER, Ms. KUSTER, and Mrs. KIRKPATRICK.

H.R. 2499: Ms. KUSTER.

H.R. 2503: Mr. YARMUTH.

H.R. 2517: Mr. WELCH and Mr. WENSTRUP.

H.R. 2542: Ms. MENG.

H.R. 2584: Mr. RUSH, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, and Mr. CLEAVER.

H.R. 2586: Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. DEFazio, Mr. SARBANES, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, and Mr. JEFFRIES.

H.R. 2654: Mr. HILL.

H.R. 2659: Miss RICE of New York.

H.R. 2742: Mr. KIM of New Jersey.

H.R. 2748: Mr. RUIZ, Mrs. LEE of Nevada, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, and Mr. MAST.

H.R. 2773: Mr. GIMENEZ.

H.R. 2805: Mr. TRONE.

H.R. 2840: Mr. THOMPSON of California.

H.R. 2897: Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida.

H.R. 2900: Ms. CRAIG.

H.R. 3183: Mrs. LAWRENCE, Mrs. FLETCHER, Ms. ADAMS, Mr. HUFFMAN, and Mr. MFUME.

H.R. 3187: Mr. NEGUSE.

H.R. 3259: Mr. PANETTA and Mr. GRIJALVA.

H.R. 3281: Ms. LETLOW, Ms. DELBENE, and Ms. SCHRIER.

H.R. 3335: Mr. POSEY, Mr. SAN NICOLAS, Mr. MALINOWSKI, Mr. VAN DREW, Mr. BACON, Ms. PRESSLEY, and Mr. SMUCKER.

H.R. 3353: Mr. VALADAO, Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia, and Mr. SMUCKER.

H.R. 3355: Mr. NORCROSS and Mr. THOMPSON of California.

H.R. 3382: Mr. LARSEN of Washington.

H.R. 3446: Mr. LIEU.

H.R. 3537: Mr. NEWHOUSE.

H.R. 3541: Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER.

H.R. 3548: Mr. CONNOLLY.

H.R. 3586: Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. LAMB, Mr. MANN, and Ms. STEFANIK.

H.R. 3630: Mr. VEASEY, Mrs. FLETCHER, Mr. DESJARLAIS, Mrs. BEATTY, Mrs. MURPHY of Florida, and Mr. HERN.

H.R. 3858: Mr. CROW.

H.R. 3884: Ms. NORTON.

H.R. 3927: Mr. KATKO and Mr. BALDERSON.

H.R. 3962: Mr. NEGUSE.

H.R. 3982: Mr. MCKINLEY and Mr. HAGEDORN.

H.R. 4046: Mr. DELGADO.

H.R. 4118: Mr. JACOBS of New York and Mr. CASE.

H.R. 4140: Mr. EMMER.

H.R. 4158: Mr. MCEACHIN.

H.R. 4176: Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York.

H.R. 4182: Ms. TITUS.

H.R. 4186: Mr. NORCROSS.

H.R. 4315: Mrs. MCBATH and Ms. LOFGREN.

H.R. 4331: Mr. SCHNEIDER and Mr. MEIJER.

H.R. 4360: Mr. GRIJALVA.

H.R. 4390: Mr. RUSH.

H.R. 4402: Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Ms. JACOBS of California, Mr. HARDER of California, Mr. SCHNEIDER, and Mr. CORREA.

H.R. 4421: Mr. NEGUSE.

H.R. 4437: Ms. MANNING.

H.R. 4457: Mr. CÁRDENAS, Ms. SEWELL, Mr. PASCRELL, and Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.

H.R. 4589: Mr. LYNCH and Mr. COSTA.

H.R. 4623: Mrs. LESKO.

H.R. 4750: Mr. KATKO.

H.R. 4766: Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. GRIJALVA, and Ms. MANNING.

H.R. 4801: Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD.

H.R. 4834: Mr. LAMB.

H.R. 4848: Mr. HUFFMAN and Mr. GRIJALVA.

H.R. 4865: Mr. FOSTER and Mr. TAYLOR.

H.R. 4880: Mr. CROW and Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas.

H.R. 4924: Ms. BASS.

H.R. 4925: Ms. BASS.

H.R. 4927: Ms. BASS.

H.R. 4928: Ms. BASS.

H.R. 4929: Ms. BASS.

H.R. 4934: Ms. MENG and Ms. MANNING.

H.R. 5016: Ms. ROSS.

H.R. 5026: Ms. TITUS and Mr. FEENSTRA.

H.R. 5029: Mr. DELGADO.

H.R. 5053: Mr. LIEU.

H.R. 5070: Mr. DONALDS.

H.R. 5119: Ms. LOFGREN.

H.R. 5129: Ms. PRESSLEY, Ms. SCHRIER, Mr. PANETTA, Mr. KATKO, Ms. CRAIG, Mr. JOHN-SON of Ohio, and Mr. VALADAO.

H.R. 5141: Mr. BROWN of Maryland, Mr. MEIJER, and Ms. BOURDEAUX.

H.R. 5148: Ms. WILD.

H.R. 5232: Mr. MOOLENAAR.

H.R. 5294: Mr. DONALDS.

H.R. 5314: Ms. PLASKETT, Mr. CASTEN, and Mr. HORSFORD.

H.R. 5342: Miss RICE of New York.

H.R. 5344: Ms. WEXTON.

H.R. 5377: Mr. BACON and Mr. FLEISCHMANN.

H.R. 5388: Mr. BACON.

H.R. 5414: Mr. BACON.

H.R. 5429: Mr. BLUMENAUER.

H.R. 5439: Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD.

H.R. 5468: Mr. DESAULNIER, Mr. LIEU, and Mr. HUFFMAN.

H.R. 5473: Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. HORSFORD, and Mr. LEVIN of Michigan.

H.R. 5482: Ms. MENG.

H.R. 5487: Mr. DELGADO.
 H.R. 5502: Mrs. MCBATH.
 H.R. 5512: Mr. JACKSON.
 H.R. 5536: Mr. ARMSTRONG.
 H.R. 5537: Mr. GRIJALVA.
 H.R. 5538: Mr. GRIJALVA and Mrs. TRAHAN.
 H.R. 5539: Mr. GRIJALVA.
 H.R. 5540: Mr. GRIJALVA.
 H.R. 5544: Mr. LAMBORN.
 H.R. 5554: Mr. GRIJALVA.
 H.R. 5577: Mr. BRADY, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, and Mr. ADERHOLT.
 H.R. 5581: Mrs. MCBATH.
 H.R. 5608: Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS.
 H.R. 5629: Mr. DEUTCH.
 H.R. 5660: Mr. BISHOP of Georgia and Mr. DIAZ-BALART.
 H.R. 5665: Mr. MALINOWSKI.
 H.R. 5694: Mr. KELLER.
 H.R. 5718: Mr. GRIJALVA and Mr. CARSON.
 H.R. 5723: Ms. BROWN of Ohio.
 H.R. 5727: Mr. DELGADO and Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas.
 H.R. 5731: Mr. ROSENDALE and Mr. BABIN.
 H.R. 5735: Mr. FLEISCHMANN and Mr. BACON.
 H.R. 5736: Ms. SCANLON.
 H.R. 5768: Ms. SCANLON.
 H.R. 5770: Mr. PALAZZO.
 H.R. 5777: Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi.
 H.R. 5800: Mr. DELGADO.
 H.R. 5809: Mr. DESAULNIER, Mr. BERA, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. SCHIFF, and Ms. BARRAGÁN.
 H.R. 5811: Mr. BANKS.
 H.R. 5819: Mr. NEGUSE and Mr. ALLRED.
 H.R. 5828: Mr. NEGUSE.
 H.R. 5841: Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD.
 H.R. 5852: Mr. GARBARINO.
 H.R. 5854: Ms. MACE, Mr. CRENSHAW, and Mr. HOLLINGSWORTH.
 H.R. 5950: Mr. TONKO.
 H.R. 5963: Mr. MEIJER, Ms. ROSS, and Mrs. HINSON.
 H.R. 5981: Ms. TENNEY and Mr. CALVERT.
 H.R. 5984: Ms. DEGETTE, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. CROW, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. QUIGLEY, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. KIND, Mr. TRONE, Mr. LAMB, Ms. SPANBERGER, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. BERA, and Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois.
 H.R. 5994: Mr. MFUME, Mr. COOPER, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, and Mr. HIMES.

H.R. 5995: Mr. MEIJER.
 H.R. 5999: Ms. SPEIER, Mr. LIEU, Mr. CROW, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, and Mr. MCNERNEY.
 H.R. 6015: Mrs. MCBATH, Ms. ADAMS, Ms. BROWNLEY, Mrs. FLETCHER, Ms. DEAN, Ms. MANNING, Ms. WILD, Mr. SHERMAN, Ms. TITUS, Mrs. DEMINGS, Mrs. TORRES of California, Mr. NORCROSS, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Mr. QUIGLEY, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Ms. SCANLON, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. CRIST, Ms. CRAIG, Mr. CUELLAR, Mrs. AXNE, Mr. GARAMENDI, Ms. STEVENS, Mr. LAMB, Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ, Mr. ALLRED, Mr. JEFFRIES, Ms. ESHOO, Ms. ROSS, Mr. RASKIN, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. YARMUTH, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, and Ms. SPEIER.
 H.R. 6016: Mr. BABIN, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, and Mr. TAYLOR.
 H.R. 6017: Mr. GOSAR.
 H.R. 6018: Mr. GOODEN of Texas.
 H.R. 6020: Mr. HORSFORD, Mr. HARRIS, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Mrs. AXNE, Mrs. LESKO, and Ms. VAN DUYN.
 H.R. 6037: Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. GOODEN of Texas, Mr. PALAZZO, Mr. BOST, Mr. OWENS, Mr. BUDD, Mr. TIMMONS, Mr. DAVIDSON, Mr. GOOD of Virginia, Mrs. HINSON, and Mr. STEIL.
 H.R. 6047: Mr. JACKSON.
 H.R. 6048: Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania and Mrs. MCBATH.
 H.R. 6050: Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. SCHIFF, and Mr. QUIGLEY.
 H.R. 6056: Mr. C. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida, Mr. DESJARLAIS, Mr. TAYLOR, Mr. GOSAR, and Mr. NEWHOUSE.
 H.R. 6059: Ms. DELBENE, Ms. TITUS, Ms. SÁNCHEZ, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, Mr. LIEU, and Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois.
 H.R. 6069: Mr. JACKSON.
 H.R. 6071: Mr. BACON.
 H.R. 6089: Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. CARSON, Mr. MANN, Mr. GIBBS, Mrs. LURIA, Mr. JACKSON, Ms. STEFANIK, Mrs. WAGNER, and Mr. KILMER.
 H.R. 6095: Mr. KILDEE, Mrs. LAWRENCE, and Ms. NORTON.

H.R. 6105: Mrs. GREENE of Georgia.
 H.R. 6114: Mr. NUNES.
 H.J. Res. 65: Mr. LONG, Mr. REED, Mrs. GREENE of Georgia, Mr. GOHMERT, and Mrs. WAGNER.
 H. Con. Res. 21: Mr. BABIN.
 H. Con. Res. 33: Mr. MANN.
 H. Con. Res. 54: Ms. TITUS and Ms. CRAIG.
 H. Con. Res. 61: Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. TIMMONS, Mr. DAVIDSON, and Ms. SALAZAR.
 H. Res. 404: Ms. CLARKE of New York.
 H. Res. 547: Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia.
 H. Res. 583: Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia.
 H. Res. 720: Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia.
 H. Res. 741: Mr. PASCRELL.
 H. Res. 754: Mr. BUCSHON.
 H. Res. 767: Mr. JONES, Mr. DESAULNIER, Ms. JAYAPAL, and Mr. QUIGLEY.
 H. Res. 805: Mr. GROTHMAN and Mr. HERN.
 H. Res. 812: Mrs. LURIA and Ms. MACE.

CONGRESSIONAL EARMARKS, LIMITED TAX BENEFITS, OR LIMITED TARIFF BENEFITS

Under clause 9 of rule XXI, lists or statements on congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits were submitted as follows:

OFFERED BY Ms. DELAURO

H.R. 6119, making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2022, and for other purposes, does not contain any congressional earmark, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9 of rule XXI.

DELETIONS OF SPONSORS FROM PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were deleted from public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 5344: Mr. MFUME.



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Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable MARIA CANTWELL, a Senator from the State of Washington.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal God, the fountain of every blessing, provide our Senators this day reverence to realize Your presence, humility to know their own needs, and trust to ask You for help. Give them also the courage to obey Your precepts and to live for Your glory.

Lord, walk with them as they work, giving them the wisdom to believe that there is no purity without vigilance, no learning without study, and no crown without a cross. Strengthen their resolve to choose the right and shun the wrong.

We pray in Your Holy Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, December 2, 2021.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable MARIA CANTWELL, a Senator from the State of Washington, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATRICK J. LEAHY,
President pro tempore.

Ms. CANTWELL thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022—Resumed

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of H.R. 4350, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 4350) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2022 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

Pending:

Reed-Inhofe modified amendment No. 3867, in the nature of a substitute.

Reed amendment No. 4775 (to amendment No. 3867), to modify effective dates relating to the Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Space Acquisition and Integration and the Service Acquisition Executive of the Department of the Air Force for Space Systems and Programs.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. ROSEN). The majority leader is recognized.

SENATE AGENDA

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I begin this morning with some good news. I am happy to say that last night I reached an agreement with Leader

MCCONNELL, the Speaker, and the chairs of the House Appropriations Committee and the Senate Appropriations Committee on a continuing resolution that will keep the Federal Government funded through mid-February of next year.

This is a good compromise that allows an appropriate amount of time for both parties in both Chambers to finish negotiations on appropriations. As I said, this is a good compromise that allows an appropriate amount of time for both parties in both Chambers to finish negotiations on appropriations.

This morning, the House will start the process to take up this government funding measure, and we hope they can have it passed through their Chamber by the end of today.

Unfortunately, it seems Republican dysfunction could be a roadblock to averting an unnecessary and dangerous government shutdown. Democrats and most Republicans, including the Republican leader, have said they don't want to see a Republican shutdown. We hope cooler heads will prevail.

Just as we saw with the NDAA, a few individual Republican Senators appear determined to derail this important legislation because of their opposition to the President's lifesaving vaccine guidelines critical to healing our country in the middle of a pandemic.

Let's be clear: If there is a shutdown, it will be a Republican anti-vaccine shutdown. Democrats want to get the government funded as soon as possible. It was not easy to reach this deal. It took a while to get Republican leadership on board. But I am glad that we have gotten it done. I thank my colleagues on the other side of the aisle for working with us to find a path forward.

Now all that is left are a few lone holdouts who are raising objections that are doomed to fail and which can be debated elsewhere. There is no reason we should have a Republican shutdown. I have worked with the Republican leader on an agreement that will

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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avoid one. Now, again, I hope cooler heads will prevail on the other side so we can keep the government funded before tomorrow's deadline.

H.R. 4350

Now, Madam President, on the NDAA, once again, Republican dysfunction—that seems to be what is going on in the other Chamber, not by all Republican Members but by some who seem to run the show—the Republican show, that is. Republican dysfunction has, sadly, caused immense damage on another routine, important, and largely bipartisan priority, the NDAA.

Democrats have been working in good faith with the other side for weeks—since before the Thanksgiving holiday—to secure an agreement to approve our annual Defense bill. Last night, because of the objections of one Republican, the NDAA has, once again, been prevented from moving forward.

As I said last night, the amendment pushed by my colleague would certainly raise a blue slip objection in the House and, thus, kill the entire NDAA. Now, the Senator from Florida says there are no blue slip issues, but this isn't a matter of opinion. The authority here rests with the Ways and Means Committee in the House, and they have stated, unequivocally, that his proposal would raise blue slip issues. There is no objection to the substance of the amendment presented by the senior Senator from Florida, but it simply would violate the provision in our Constitution that requires revenue measures to originate in the House. Other Members had amendments with similar issues, but they worked with the Ways and Means Committee in the House to resolve them because they are the arbiter. Senator RUBIO has not done the same.

It is unfortunate that this misguided demand of a single Republican Senator is preventing this important legislation to support our national security from moving in the Senate, particularly in light of the fact that so many amendments were allowed to be offered by Senator REED and Senator INHOFE. The number of amendments that would be voted on—let me repeat—would exceed the total number of amendments—the total number of amendments—that were allowed on the NDAA under the 4 years of Republican leadership during Donald Trump's Presidency.

So to say that we are in a process that is unbalanced or unfair is totally false. It is just, simply, one person holding it up. For the sake of our troops and our families, I hope this Republican dysfunction can be addressed.

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—S. 3299

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I understand that there is a bill at the desk that is due for a second reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bill by title for the second time.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 3299) to prohibit the Department of Defense from discharging or withholding pay or benefits from members of the National Guard based on COVID-19 vaccination status.

Mr. SCHUMER. In order to place the bill on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I would object to further proceeding.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection having been heard, the bill will be placed on the calendar.

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022—Continued

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Republican leader is recognized.

GOVERNMENT SPENDING

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, two-thirds of Americans are worried about inflation. About half of the middle class and 70 percent of low-income families just told Gallup that rising prices have been a personal hardship for their households. That is why 67 percent of the American people say that Washington needs to “cut back on spending and printing money,” but here in Washington, Democrats are bound and determined to do just the opposite. They want to try the crazy strategy of inflating their way out of inflation—another massive, reckless taxing-and-spending spree.

Even the most generous estimates, when the CBO has to swallow all—all—of the Democrats' accounting gimmicks at face value, still say their proposal would entail \$800 billion in new deficit spending over the next 5 years alone—over just 5 years. Outside experts who are allowed to reject the Democrats' obvious budget gimmicks find the real cost—the real cost—of their bill would actually be close to \$5 trillion. That is with a “t”—trillion dollars. After a decade, it would increase deficits by \$2.8 trillion, but the reckless pricetag, actually, isn't the only problem.

What is remarkable is that the Democrats want to spend all these trillions but not leave citizens with any impressive, enduring national project in return. There is no Hoover Dam, Interstate Highway System, or Moon landing on the other side of their mountains of borrowed money—nothing like that. It is just a giant catalog of socialist mediocrity: new entitlements here, new transfer programs there, new ways to let bureaucrats run

families' lives, and shameless—shameless—goodies for specific interest groups that support the political left—a giant, muddled mess that would leave families with fewer childcare choices and higher costs, with fewer new prescription drugs and cures, with higher prices for less reliable energy. It is, literally, a reckless taxing-and-spending spree that hurts American families and actually—believe it or not—helps China.

There are a lot of big, sweeping, radical changes in their proposal that would change families' lives dramatically and entirely for the worse. But in between the sweeping wish-fulfillment for people who call themselves “democratic socialists,” there is also a remarkable amount of just pure waste, absurd—literally absurd—little giveaways, and interest group goodies. A billion here, a billion there, and hope the American people won't notice if it is buried in enough bureaucratic gibberish.

Here are just a few examples.

This bill would supply billions of dollars to help colleges and universities indoctrinate college students with even more leftwing propaganda and billions more to give them made-up Potemkin jobs in a make-work program they are calling a Civilian Climate Corps—this at a time when industries already cannot find workers.

Their bill would set aside multiple billions of dollars to put Federal Government employees, like IRS agents and postal carriers, into brandnew electric vehicles.

Earlier this year, the Biden administration made sure that luxury Teslas, with a sticker price up to \$97,000, were on the list for government procurement—\$97,000 per vehicle.

So working families might be having to choose between heating costs and new shoes for the kids. Oh, but don't worry, Democrats will make sure IRS auditors can cruise around in Silicon Valley's finest.

Their proposal would create a huge \$29 billion slush fund that activists are applauding as the foundation for something called—now, listen to this—a national green bank. Can you say Solyndra on steroids? An entire bank to finance pipe dreams that can't earn support out in the real economy.

Separately, they are planning to spend multiple billions of taxpayer dollars for something the liberals are calling—listen to this one now—tree equity. I will let that one speak for itself.

Of course, the Green New Deal folks aren't the only constituency Democrats want to pay off. This reckless taxing-and-spending spree is also designed to knock out all their Christmas shopping for trial lawyers, Big Labor bosses, Ivy League administrators, and blue-State millionaires, all in one fell swoop.

There is the State and local tax carve-out, the SALT gimmick, that would give an extra tax cut to two-thirds of the households making a million dollars or more a year. Perhaps to

make sure these reckless policies get good press, Democrats have included a \$1.6 billion bailout for the news media. I am not making this up. We are essentially talking about government welfare for newsrooms—for newsrooms. All this, and it goes on and on and on.

There is a new special tax break for rich universities' massive endowments—hundreds of millions of dollars to overhaul kids' school lunch menus, including making sure they are "culturally appropriate." I guess they want to make sure that children's cafeteria trays are sufficiently woke.

And goodness knows they couldn't skip over Big Labor. So the Democrats' plan would let working Americans' above-the-line tax deduction for charitable contributions expire—that goes away—but they would replace it with a brandnew deduction that only applies to union dues.

And then there is pure pork of the old-school kind. The Speaker of the House tried to sneak in hundreds of millions of dollars for a special park in San Francisco. And the Senate Democratic leader has spent much trying to double the bill's funding for public housing so the chronically mismanaged authority in his hometown could get \$40 billion to clean up its messes.

There is even what appears to be a \$33 million kickback that is largely for one Democratic Congressman whose vote Speaker PELOSI literally had to lock down. Out of nowhere, one mostly dormant government Commission that is important to this particular Democrat's district gets a funding increase of 13,000 percent—13,000 percent. You heard that right, a funding increase of 13,000 percent. What a terrific coincidence for this particular Democratic House Member.

So take a step back. Our colleagues' proposal isn't some big national leap into the 21st century; it is an endless—endless—hodgepodge of this nonsense: partisan back-scratching, interest group giveaways, and shameless—shameless—waste. And through tax hikes and inflation, working American families will foot the bill.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

BUREAU OF PRISONS

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, it has been a great source of debate over the past couple of years over a very basic question: How was Jeffrey Epstein able to take his own life in Federal prison on August 10, 2019?

Last week, we found some answers in the New York Times. It pointed out a series of stunning failures within the Bureau of Prisons.

According to the Times: "The newly obtained records offer no support to

the explosion of conspiracy theories that Mr. Epstein's death was not a suicide. . . . But they do paint a picture of incompetence and sloppiness by some within the Bureau of Prisons."

That incompetence and sloppiness was evident from the moment Jeffrey Epstein entered the Metropolitan Correctional Center. On his intake screening form, Mr. Epstein was described as "a Black male," with no prior record of sex offense convictions. A 5-second Google search would tell you that not only was Jeffrey Epstein White, he was one of the most notorious sex traffickers in recent history.

And what about the night he died? He had already attempted suicide in the weeks leading up to his death, so you would think that the officials in the Bureau of Prisons would keep close watch over this potentially suicidal inmate.

In fact, the opposite happened. Jeffrey Epstein was left alone, unmonitored, in his cell. The two officers on duty were allegedly dozing off and scrolling on their phones. And the next morning, Epstein was found dead with a bed sheet tied around his neck. Because of these failures, the survivors of Epstein's despicable crimes will never get to see him brought to justice.

Six months after Epstein died, former Attorney General Bill Barr handpicked Michael Carvajal to lead the Bureau of Prisons. It could have been a new beginning for the Bureau, a chance to get to the bottom of widely publicized neglect and mismanagement—and to hold the appropriate parties accountable. But that fresh start never came because, since day one, Director Carvajal of the Bureau of Prisons has shown no intention of reforming that institution.

Consider the case of the warden who ran the Metropolitan Correctional Center the night Jeffrey Epstein died. How did Director Carvajal respond to that warden's failure of leadership? Well, if you can imagine it, he actually rewarded him. Director Carvajal appointed the same warden to lead a different facility, the largest Federal prison in the United States: FCI Fort Dix in New Jersey.

And it seems that warden hasn't learned any lessons in leadership since Mr. Epstein's death. Last month, an inmate in FCI Fort Dix was attacked from behind and stabbed in the eye.

These are not isolated incidents. For years, the Bureau of Prisons has been plagued by corruption, chronic understaffing, and misconduct by high-ranking officials. And in the nearly 2 years since Director Carvajal took control of the Bureau, he has failed to address the mounting crises in our Nation's Federal prison system.

It is far past time for new, reform-minded leadership in the Bureau of Prisons.

A few weeks ago, the Associated Press published a breathtaking investigation into the Bureau. They concluded that it is a "hotbed of abuse,

graft and corruption, and has turned a blind eye to employees accused of misconduct."

Since 2019, more than 100 Federal prison workers have been arrested for, charged with, or convicted of crimes, including sexual abuse, murder, and introducing contraband into the prison. Altogether, these crimes account for two-thirds of the criminal cases against all Department of Justice personnel, even though BOP employees comprise less than a third of the workforce.

I want to share a few of the stories from the Associated Press report. At one Federal prison in Mississippi, an official responsible for investigating the misconduct of other staff members was arrested for his own misconduct. He was not only accused of stalking and harassing his fellow employees, but he was allowed to remain in his position. He was even authorized to continue investigating one of his accusers.

In California, a warden of a Federal women's prison was arrested and indicted earlier this year for molesting an inmate. He even kept lewd photos of the victim on his government-issued cell phone. He allegedly told the woman that she shouldn't even try to report the assault because he was "close friends" with the official who would investigate it.

The list goes on. It is a recurring pattern of misconduct by officials within the Bureau of Prisons who believe they can abuse inmates and break the law with impunity. In some cases, that is exactly what they have done.

The details in the AP investigation are shocking. And for those of us who have been following Director Carvajal's tenure, they are the latest disturbing examples of failed leadership.

Time and again, he has categorically failed to uphold his chief responsibility as Director. And what is that responsibility? Protecting the health and safety of inmates and correctional officers.

Today, the Bureau suffers from chronic and significant understaffing. Director Carvajal has failed to contain outbreaks of COVID-19, which has led to tens of thousands of inmates and staff contracting the virus. And when it comes to reforming our Federal prison system, he has failed.

In 2018, congressional Democrats and Republicans came together on an overwhelmingly bipartisan basis to enact the FIRST STEP Act. It was a historic piece of reform legislation to create new pathways for prison inmates to better themselves while they serve their time, so they can return to society once released.

Nearly 3 years later, the Bureau of Prisons still hasn't implemented most of these reforms.

One example, under the FIRST STEP Act, low-risk inmates are eligible to earn time credits, reducing their sentences. They do this by completing programs designed to prevent them from committing another crime.

Last month, the inspector general at the Department of Justice found that

the Bureau of Prisons has not applied these earned time credits to any of the approximately 60,000 eligible inmates.

Now the Senate Judiciary Committee, which I chair, is charged with overseeing the Bureau of Prisons. We have tried to get answers from Director Carvajal and his team. We have repeatedly requested information.

We have asked for details about the inmate banking system. Now, there is a heck of a story. It purportedly has little oversight by the Bureau of Prisons, has allowed inmates to avoid paying child support and restitution to crime victims and other obligations.

The Bureau reportedly allowed Larry Nassar, the so-called doctor who abused hundreds of young gymnasts before he was sentenced to life in prison, to spend thousands of dollars from his Bureau of Prisons account on himself but pay only \$300 toward the debt he owes his victims.

The Bureau has delayed responding to our questions—or just flatout ignored them.

It is past time to replace Director Carvajal. This can't wait any longer. The Associated Press's investigation shows us that lives are literally at stake.

I know Attorney General Garland understands the urgency. I am calling on him today to move immediately to dismiss Director Carvajal and to bring real reform to the Bureau of Prisons.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MURPHY). The Senator from Texas.

CHINA

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, in my lifetime, the People's Republic of China has gone from a poor and isolated country to one that now accounts for 20 percent of global domestic product. There is no question that the driving force behind this dramatic shift is the ruthlessness of the Chinese Communist Party led by President Xi. The CCP's ruling strategy can best be described as win at all costs, which means that China never thinks twice about disregarding basic values and international norms. But there is no question that the most immediate and grave threats are against countries close to China's borders.

Last month, I led a congressional delegation to visit the Indo-Pacific to learn more from the people on the ground doing the hard work about the challenges they face and that we face in the Indo-Pacific. In my conversations with leaders in the Philippines, Taiwan, and India, I noticed they used a different vocabulary to describe China's behavior than what we hear in Washington, DC. They didn't just talk about China's ambitions; they warned of its threats of aggression. They didn't just share concerns about China's unification with Taiwan; they spoke of the potential for an invasion. They didn't just bring up human rights abuses; they condemned the blatant genocide committed against the Uighurs and other ethnic minorities in China.

Words matter, of course, and the soft lexicon that is often used to describe the Chinese Communist Party and the People's Republic of China here in the United States and particularly inside the beltway has the potential to create a false impression about China's objectives, and it plays right into their hands.

I think we should not continue to downplay the risks to the global world order and to peace itself by what China is doing. This isn't just a government interested in competing with the United States and other countries by playing by the rules of the international order; the Chinese Communist Party is an aggressive, even belligerent and hostile power that has made economic gains through stealing intellectual property and other activities that belie its stated ambitions to become part of the liberal world order.

For example, it squashes opposition by committing genocide against its own people and muzzling—even murdering—dissidents. China has literally become a police state, where the volumes of data that they have vacuumed up in that country and the ubiquitous technical surveillance that is mainly cameras that chronicle every aspect of the lives of their citizens and the use of things like artificial intelligence have allowed them to essentially control everything that does go on in China. And these are the same tools that they intend to use on other parts of the world.

We know China has spent a lot of money developing its military resources. It has come a long way, while the United States and other countries were focused post-9/11 on the Global War on Terror. While we were focused on the Middle East, the PRC and the CCP wasted no time in rebuilding their capabilities from a military standpoint.

And they are now aggressively claiming other parts of the region, not just Taiwan, but contested islands in the South China Sea that are claimed by Japan, by the Philippines, and other countries as well.

Well, as I mentioned, one of the greatest looming threats in the region is a potential invasion of Taiwan by the People's Republic of China.

Of course, as you can see, Taiwan is just a small island of about 24 million people, just off the coast of mainland China. It is not much larger than the State of Maryland.

In every possible way you can imagine, Taiwan is a stark contrast with China. For one, it is a true democracy. Voters go to the polls with the confidence that the election results are not predetermined. Successful businesses—and there are many of them—are built on good old-fashioned hard work, not government favoritism. And the people in Taiwan—the Republic of China—enjoy the same freedoms that we do here in the United States: freedom of speech, freedom of press, freedom of religion, and freedom of assembly.

Taiwan has been a self-governing entity for more than 70 years, but the Chinese Communist Party falsely asserts that the island republic is part of its territory. Indeed, Taiwan faces China as the last outpost of democracy, standing watch against authoritarianism.

Our congressional delegation met with the commander of the Indo-Pacific Command who described the current power dynamic rather succinctly. He said it is not a question of if China moves on Taiwan, but a question of when.

Indeed, the language we heard from our military leadership and others in the region was far more urgent in terms of the threat of the People's Republic of China against Taiwan than anything I have heard here in Washington, DC.

According to our top military leaders, we have an idea how long Xi might wait. He himself has said that he wants to be ready by 2027. But there is absolutely no guarantee that President Xi and the Chinese Communist Party of the People's Republic of China—there is no guarantee they won't move at another time of their choosing.

As I said, Taiwan is not the only nation on the CCP's list. China has territorial claims against a number of its neighbors. If you closed your eyes and just threw a dart at this region, you would likely hit one or more of those contested areas. Japan, the Philippines, Vietnam, Bhutan, India—all of those countries claim sovereign territory that is also contested and claimed by the Chinese Communist Party of the People's Republic of China.

Of course, it hasn't even been 25 years since China took control of Hong Kong under the "one country, two systems" framework. China had promised Hong Kong it would retain a high degree of autonomy for at least a half a century, but, obviously, Beijing eroded the freedoms and independence of Hong Kong to the point of basically hijacking that city and that entity.

The Indian Minister of Foreign Affairs in Delhi told our delegation that Taiwan isn't the problem; it is a China problem. And I think he has a point.

In other words, what is at stake here is much larger than the future of just one nation. It is the entire scope of Beijing's power and its ambitions in the region. Taiwan is not the final goal. It is the next step in a quest to reach regional dominance.

Taiwan will likely be the first target because it has been identified by President Xi and the Chinese Communist Party, but it certainly won't be the last. I think it would be the ultimate in naivety, first, to think, well, this is just about Taiwan. It is not just about Taiwan. China will continue to threaten; intimidate; and, unfortunately, I think, ultimately threaten and invade its neighbors. And if that aggression goes unchecked, the CCP's power grab will reach further and further.

Plus, I believe in the power of deterrence, what Ronald Reagan called

peace through strength. Nobody wants a military conflict in this region—nobody.

If the CCP can attain its goals without a shot being fired, they will try to do that. They are already trying to do that. But the fact of the matter is, if the People's Republic of China and the Chinese Communist Party worked to conduct a military invasion of Taiwan, there are a multitude of risks of mistakes, miscalculations, and other dangers that could lead to a larger conflict.

And I believe we have a responsibility in the United States to make sure, to the extent humanly possible, that that does not happen. We want peace, but we also want to stand up to the kind of aggression that we are seeing in practice and being threatened in the Indo-Pacific region. I believe that countering and first confronting the threats from the PRC is one of the greatest national security imperatives of our generation.

Russia, obviously, is a significant power, mainly because it holds nuclear weapons; but it mainly tries to find places where the United States is having a hard time and tries to make those situations more challenging for us. It doesn't compare to the Chinese Communist Party and the PRC in terms of its regional ambitions, its attempt to project its power and its control over the region.

We need to reorient the way that our country views and responds to this threat, and I believe that time is of the essence. As I said, some people have said that President Xi could wait until as late as 2027 to try to take Taiwan, but there is no guarantee that it couldn't happen earlier if they deem it an opportunity to exist for them to do so.

The longer Beijing is treated as a reasonable, goal-oriented country by the international community, the more aggressive it will become. One seemingly small step we must take is to describe China's actions with accurate terms. We can't do the CCP any favor using watered-down euphemisms like human rights abuses when what we are really talking about is genocide. Here in the Senate, as we know, words are important, but those words need to be accompanied with action.

We will soon vote on the National Defense Authorization Act, which will help us raise the issue and visibility of this potential conflict and raise the opportunity for deterrence in response to growing threats posed by China. We can do good work here on the Defense authorization bill to raise the cost to the PRC in the event they decided to invade Taiwan.

The Defense Authorization Act includes a bipartisan bill I introduced with Senator DUCKWORTH called the Taiwan Partnership Act. This bill would establish a formal partnership between the U.S. National Guard and the Taiwanese defense forces to strengthen Taiwan's preparedness.

Should troops need to deploy quickly in the event of a crisis, they would be armed with the same knowledge and skills as our dedicated U.S. National Guardsmen. This would also help Taiwan build up much of its asymmetric defenses.

The Defense Authorization Act also includes legislation I introduced with Senator KING, from Maine, to ensure that the United States and Taiwan can improve defense interoperability. There shouldn't be any barriers to cooperating on important security measures like integrated air and missile defense systems.

The Defense Authorization Act includes other provisions to increase defense cooperation with Taiwan and equip the U.S. Indo-Pacific Command with greater resources. It also ensures that the United States will take a stronger approach and confront the threats being made by the Chinese Communist Party.

This is not a partisan issue, as you can tell. After the delegation I led to Taipei, it was followed on by a bipartisan coalition mainly from Members of the House, and I think it is absolutely critical that that spirit of bipartisanship and the reality of bipartisanship continues to exist when it comes to the threat posed by the People's Republic of China and the Chinese Communist Party.

I appreciate colleagues on both sides of the aisle who have championed the provisions I mentioned and those who may have other ideas about how we can deter acts of aggression, not only against Taiwan but against other countries in the region when it comes to disputed islands and other territory.

I want to thank Chairman REED, Ranking Member INHOFE, and our colleagues on the Armed Services Committee for all the work they have put into this bill so far. One of our most solemn responsibilities is to provide for the common defense, and this is the best way to ensure that our national defense is prepared to meet the challenges on the horizon.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arkansas.

NOMINATION OF JEROME POWELL

Mr. COTTON. Mr. President, Jerome Powell was a better choice for Federal Reserve Chair than Lael Brainard, but that alone is not a good enough reason to confirm Chairman Powell for a second term. Chairman Powell has presided over a series of failures at the Fed, while the Fed's actions during his tenure have harmed working-class Americans and worsened inequality. The Senate should not support his re-nomination.

The core mission of the Federal Reserve from the very beginning has been to foster stable prices and ensure a sound currency. No one—no one—can seriously argue that the Fed has accomplished this mission under Mr. Powell's leadership. After years of reckless policy and months of obfusca-

tion, inflation now exceeds 6 percent, the highest rate of inflation in 30 years—the highest rate of inflation in 30 years.

An inflationary economy rewards will-be speculators and the holders of large assets and debts like, for instance, the Federal Government or giant corporations, but it ruins responsible citizens who are just trying to save for their retirements or maybe their kids' colleges.

In the worst-case scenario, the value of money can collapse, endangering society itself. In less catastrophic but still serious conditions, Americans who have played by the rules for many years, responsibly working and saving, see the value of their money slowly erode over time.

Nearly half of all Americans have no exposure whatsoever to the stock market, not a single stock or mutual fund or pension—no exposure to the stock market. Their money is usually held in low-interest checking accounts, savings accounts, certificates of deposit, and cash. The Fed's extreme low-interest-rate policy means their thrift and prudence earns them nothing. In fact, it sets them back every day with this inflationary spiral. Money outside the stock market loses value every day when inflation is at 30-year highs and interest rates are near record lows.

Likewise, 6 percent inflation has totally wiped out any nominal wage gains for workers. In fact, inflation-adjusted weekly earnings are down 1.6 percent compared with a year ago. Real inflation-adjusted wages are down from last year when employers across the country report shortages of workers. That is because inflation is eating away at all those wage gains. And there is no guarantee that inflation at 6 percent is the ceiling.

Still, the Fed has refused to change course even as prices rose on everything from groceries to gasoline. Chairman Powell insisted for months that the pain was only "temporary" or "transitory." According to so-called "experts," inflation would simply vanish once Pete Buttigieg sorted out the supply chains and we got the Delta variant under control. But after months of skyrocketing prices, Chairman Powell's confidence looks not only misplaced and misinformed but reckless.

This week, Mr. Powell admitted that he would retire—retire—the word "transitory," the very word he helped popularized. If only American families could so easily retire the devastating effects of inflation on their monthly budgets.

Mr. Powell has directly contributed to this inflation. He has maintained the Fed's so-called emergency monetary policies a decade after the emergency of the financial crisis had ended. That means the Fed had already exhausted the normal tools of monetary policy when the pandemic hit last spring. It had to prop up the economy through unprecedented levels of government intervention. These policies,

while perhaps justified for a very brief period of uncertainty in the spring of 2020—very brief—policies which included huge purchases of government bonds, mortgage debt, and corporate debt—but they were not justified after that, just as they weren't justified before it, even as the Fed was continuing unparalleled levels of quantitative easing.

As a result, the Fed's balance sheet has ballooned to \$9 trillion, and it continues to grow by more than \$100 billion a month. Nine trillion dollars. Let me put that in perspective. The Fed's balance sheet after the financial crisis barely surpassed \$2 trillion.

The chief result of these policies during the pandemic has been to boost asset prices, especially the stock market valuations of giant corporations. But the price of these gains has been inflation, which especially harms working-class Americans. After releasing a torrent of cash into the economy, it is no surprise that prices are rising in this flood of cheap money.

This week, Chairman Powell testified that he might—he might—unwind these policies a little faster than previously planned, but even if the Fed follows through—and I will believe it when I see it after the last many years of radical emergency monetary policy—it will still be too little, too late.

The simple fact is, the Fed, under Chairman Powell's leadership, has forced millions of American families to choose whether to pay the mortgage or feed their families or fill up their gas tanks, heat their homes, or maybe buy a couple of extra Christmas presents. That is failure.

While inflation is the Fed's worst failure under Chairman Powell, it is not their only failure. At a time when they cannot achieve their core mission of price stability, they are adopting ancillary missions like “woke” activism at the Fed. The Fed has joined an international effort devoted to “greening” the financial system, whatever that means. Fed branches around the country are even spreading critical race theory, claiming that terms like “Founding Fathers” and “blacklist” are “biased” and sharing radical materials that claim that—this is a direct quote from some of the materials that Fed branches have shared—“race-neutral policies uphold racism.” Think about that. The Fed's core mission is to maintain price stability. While they fail on that mission, they are teaching their employees that race-neutral policies are racist.

We might chuckle and shake our heads and have a good laugh when this kind of nonsense happened at Bard College or some other college campus, but now it is happening at the Nation's central bank, which plays a role in determining whether we end up rich or poor. This mission creep is alarming, especially when the Fed is failing to fulfill its core mission.

I know many people have made excuses for the Fed, and they defended

Mr. Powell's tenure. They said inflation was not his fault or primarily the Fed's fault. But it is true the Democrats have been spending trillions of dollars this year we don't have. But, as Bill Parcells said about NFL teams, you are what your record says you are. The Fed's record is 6 percent inflation, the worst inflation in 30 years.

Most Americans live in a world of accountability and consequences, the lack of which is one of the things they hate most about Washington. Failure in Washington is too often rewarded. The Fed has manifestly failed during Chairman Powell's tenure, further skewing our economy in favor of the wealthy while the working class suffers. There have to be consequences for this kind of failure. Jerome Powell is not the right choice to continue to lead the Federal Reserve.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SENATE AGENDA

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I come to the floor today to talk about the Defense bill that is currently before the Senate and note that the majority leader this morning made some mention and some complaints about substantive, timely, and important amendments that are being offered by my colleagues. He was particularly agitated, it seems, about an amendment dealing with communist China.

Well, the U.S. Senate has a lot of work to do by the end of the year. We need to fund the government. We need to prevent a shutdown. We need to deal with the debt ceiling. Democrats are going to need to lift that. We need to make sure that our troops are funded and that we deal with the Defense bill. These are some of the important issues that are before the Senate.

Yet, here we are, near the end of the year, scrambling to get it all done in just a couple of weeks—no way to run the U.S. Senate. We haven't had an appropriations bill brought to the floor all year, and the Defense bill has been sitting in limbo for months.

The Armed Services Committee actually finished marking up this bill in July. It is a bipartisan bill. It passed the vote in the committee by 23 to 3. Things don't get a lot more bipartisan than that.

So, typically, the Senate starts working on the Defense bill and then negotiates over the next couple of months. We start in June. But, instead, we have gone months and months and months.

We have seen the disastrous collapse and fall and withdrawal in Afghanistan, and yet no Defense bill to the floor of the U.S. Senate.

So what did the Democrats try to do instead?

Well, they pushed a very partisan agenda and brought to the floor two bills on election takeovers. And the Democrats also seem to be very obsessed with their own bill. They want to call it Build Back Better, something like that. I will tell you, it is a bill that is going to break the backs of American families.

So now here we are, just at the deadline, and the majority leader is finally getting around to dealing with a bill that has to do with supporting the troops. It seems to me that is like a kid with a term paper that is due tomorrow. It is the night before, and they are going to start writing the term paper.

Well, if you want to get it right, it takes a longer process than that. It is a long process, generally, because it is that important for the Nation. Every Senator wants to be involved.

Yet, through the procrastination by the majority leader, the Defense bill has been delayed.

Now, I have made the case that, frankly, national security has been a very low priority of this President and this administration and the majority party in the House and in the Senate. And the reason I say that, exhibit A, is the fact that the budget that President Biden proposed when he came into office—and let's be frank. The budget he proposed was a massive, supersizing of the size of the Federal Government—more money for this, more money for that, more money for everything except for two items alone. Only two items in the entire Federal budget came in to grow at a rate less than inflation—less than inflation.

Now, what were those two items? Defense and homeland security. That tells me how this administration prioritizes the role of our Nation's security for our country.

So, finally, we have gotten to work on this bill, and there are some concerns because amendments need to be voted on, debated, brought to this floor.

I have introduced an amendment with the ranking member of the Foreign Relations Committee to sanction the Nord Stream 2 pipeline. There is bipartisan agreement that that pipeline needed to be sanctioned, and we have been fighting for that together in a bipartisan way through multiple administrations.

This is Vladimir Putin's pipeline to which Joe Biden has given the stamp of approval. It is a weapon that Putin is going to be using to hold half of Europe hostage. And under what this administration has been doing on energy—penalizing American energy production and begging Putin to produce more and sell it to us—this has been a jackpot for Vladimir Putin.

Our amendment would do the right thing and block this President's present to Vladimir Putin—a Christmas present. And this is at a time with

Joe Biden inflation that we have many Americans worrying if they are going to even be able to afford to buy Christmas presents. This is no time for our Nation to give this present to Vladimir Putin.

The Republican Senator from Ohio has introduced an important amendment to provide lethal aid to Ukraine. Vladimir Putin has 100,000 troops right now staged on the border with Ukraine. We ought to stand by Ukraine and pass that amendment.

The Senator from Montana has an amendment to block Joe Biden from sending \$400,000 to the families of illegal immigrants. An open border is a threat to our national security, and these payments would cause a mad rush if not a stampede to the country and into the country, the way the border has been left open.

There are lots of important amendments, and we ought to be having a fair and open debate. This is supposed to be the greatest deliberative body in the world, and yet the majority leader has tried to cut off debate on some of the most important issues facing our Nation.

Why? Because we can hear the clock ticking, that is why. He has dragged his feet for months, and now, he wants to force us into a mad dash to close this.

Look, it is a disservice to our troops. It is a disservice to our allies. It is a disservice to the people of our Nation.

And yet, this morning, the majority leader is pointing his finger. He came to the floor. He attacked Republicans.

We didn't make him delay this bill for month after month after month. This is a choice that the majority leader has made.

It does seem that the other Democrats have basically higher priorities than our Nation's defense: election takeovers, new entitlements, amnesty for illegal immigrants.

It is no way to govern, no way to make important decisions, no way to run the U.S. Senate.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

NOMINATION OF BRIAN EDDIE NELSON

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I urge my colleagues to join me in confirming Brian Nelson to serve as Under Secretary for Terrorism and Financial Crimes at the Department of Treasury.

Mr. Nelson is highly qualified. He has had years of dedicated public service to our country.

Early in his career, he clerked for two distinguished Federal judges. He served in the National Security Division at the Department of Justice, first as special counsel to the Assistant Attorney General for National Security, later as the Division's Deputy Chief of Staff.

In these roles, Mr. Nelson supported the development, the implementation, the coordination, and the review of U.S. intelligence, counterintelligence, counterterrorism, and national security policies.

He went to work for the California Department of Justice, where he served as special assistant attorney general and then as general counsel to then-attorney general, now-Vice President HARRIS.

He worked to combat threats like human and drug trafficking by prosecuting international criminals, starving them of their financial resources.

As Under Secretary, Mr. Nelson will be responsible for protecting our financial system from terrorists, from rogue states, money launderers, weapons proliferators, and other criminals who threaten our national security.

His nomination is another example of the Biden administration's serious—underline “serious”—efforts to protect both our economy and our national security.

He would take on this job at a critical time for protecting our country's national security, as we work to rebuild alliances abroad, while threats of domestic terrorism are on the rise at home.

Treasury's Office of Terrorism and Financial Intelligence is one of the cornerstones of our country's efforts. That is the importance of this nomination of Mr. Nelson, one of our country's efforts to combat terrorist financing here and around the world.

The FBI Director recently testified that racially motivated and anti-government extremists are likely to be the biggest domestic threat this year and in 2022.

Think about that. The FBI Director testified that racially motivated and anti-government extremists—and we remember that day so well just 10 months ago—11 months ago. They are the likely biggest domestic threats to our country this year and next year.

Mr. Nelson will be the first African American serving in this important national security position. When we have people in these roles who reflect the country they serve, we get better, more competent government.

That is what always flummoxes me about hiring practices in this body and around the country. When you hire people that don't necessarily look like you, you get a better office that understands different perspectives. It understands better the way this country works and helps us to better serve the people whom we serve.

Unfortunately, we have seen far too many of this administration's nominees held up for months in the nominations process. You just heard an example of that in the speech right before me; not because of their background, experience, and qualifications—those are unquestioned in Mr. Nelson—but for reasons completely unrelated to that nomination.

That is what has happened here. It is the kind of partisan posturing the American people hate. Blocking critical national security and other policy nominees for months over unrelated policy issues is counterproductive; it is misguided; and it is wrong for our

country. Going after human trafficking, going after drug trafficking, going after international criminals of all kinds isn't a partisan issue; it is something my Republican colleagues and I work together on all the time. So let's come together today and confirm Mr. Nelson, who is exceptionally well qualified.

He is joined today by his wife and his son.

I urge this body to support Mr. Nelson's nomination, getting in place right away an important part of our national security team.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. President, under the agreement reached by the two leaders on November 16, the Senate will now vote on confirmation of the Nelson nomination.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the Nelson nomination, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Brian Eddie Nelson, of California, to be Under Secretary for Terrorism and Financial Crimes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Nelson nomination?

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE).

The result was announced—yeas 50, nays 49, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 474 Ex.]

YEAS—50

Baldwin	Hickenlooper	Reed
Bennet	Hirono	Rosen
Blumenthal	Kaine	Sanders
Booker	Kelly	Schatz
Brown	King	Schumer
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Cardin	Leahy	Sinema
Carper	Lujan	Smith
Casey	Manchin	Stabenow
Coons	Markey	Tester
Cortez Masto	Menendez	Van Hollen
Duckworth	Merkley	Warner
Durbin	Murphy	Warnock
Feinstein	Murray	Warren
Gillibrand	Ossoff	Whitehouse
Hassan	Padilla	Wyden
Heinrich	Peters	

NAYS—49

Barrasso	Collins	Fischer
Blackburn	Cornyn	Graham
Blunt	Cotton	Grassley
Boozman	Cramer	Hagerty
Braun	Crapo	Hawley
Burr	Cruz	Hoeben
Capito	Daines	Hyde-Smith
Cassidy	Ernst	Inhofe

NOT VOTING—1

Thune

The nomination was confirmed.

(Mr. LUJÁN assumed the Chair.)

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. KING). The majority leader.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MOTION TO DISCHARGE

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, pursuant to S. Res. 27, the Senate Judiciary Committee being tied on the question of reporting, I move to discharge the Senate Judiciary Committee from further consideration of the nomination of Rachael S. Rollins, of Massachusetts, to be United States Attorney for the District of Massachusetts.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the provisions of S. Res. 27, there will now be up to 4 hours of debate on the motion, equally divided between the two leaders or their designees, with no motions, points of order, or amendments in order.

Mr. SCHUMER. For the information of all Senators, we expect the vote on the motion to discharge to occur later this afternoon.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah.

VACCINE MANDATE

Mr. LEE. Mr. President, this always happens near the kick-the-can funding deadlines that we are now approaching. There is controversy surrounding what will and what will not make it into the continuing resolution; that is, the legislation funding the government for a finite period of time upon the expiration of a spending period.

In the House of Representatives, the debate and controversy continued late into last night, and may well still continue later today.

Here in the Senate, there are a number of Senators, including me, who are not inclined to give consent to expedite a funding measure that supports and funds President Biden's unconstitutional and sweeping vaccine mandate without holding a vote on that mandate and whether we should fund that part of government charged with enforcing it.

Now, to be very clear about all of this, Senator SCHUMER, as the majority leader, could have done this without our help if he had started this process weeks ago or even days ago. He could have held votes and passed this resolution without needing to ask for the help of those of us who feel this way, who are not inclined to help him do it.

Senator SCHUMER is in a bind, due to his own delay and his own denial. He is asking all of us to help him.

Now, I have offered a very simple solution, a very reasonable solution. I am

not asking that a poison pill or a pet project be included, no. I am not asking for dramatic reforms or draconian cuts. Far from it. I just want to vote on one amendment. I want the Members of this body to go on record on whether they support funding—in this bill—President Biden's vaccine mandate.

The American people have a right to know, through our votes, where we stand and where we stand in connection with this bill, on a germane amendment—one that pertains to that, a simple up or down, yes or no—simple majority vote. That is all I am asking.

Let me first explain a little bit about the recent history of this situation. While those involved in this effort have been accused by many in elected office and in the press of brinksmanship, we have been nothing but consistent and clear and open about our position for weeks now—in fact, for a month.

On November 3, a group of Senators—15 of us, in fact—declared our intentions, sending this letter to Senator SCHUMER. And in this letter, we made very clear that we will “not support—and will use all means at our disposal to oppose—legislation that funds or in any way allows the enforcement of President Biden's employer vaccine mandate.”

Now, 15 Senators have signed this letter. And there it is right there in black and white—the words that I just read in that letter from a month ago. The letter—again, written back at the beginning of November—specifically mentions this funding deadline—the one we are now approaching; the one that is hitting us tomorrow night—as one for Senator SCHUMER and our colleagues to be aware of that we made our intentions clear. We did so out of courtesy to the majority leader and to those we represent: to the American people, those who will be affected by these matters.

And now, as a matter of political convenience, he and others are saying “their unwillingness to come to the table,” which is the reason we are now approaching the deadline without an agreement, somehow amounts to an act of brinksmanship on our part.

That portrayal is disingenuous, and it is wrong. After running out the clock, knowingly, deliberately not coming to the table to negotiate, and ignoring our clear, public position, Senator SCHUMER is now accusing us of wanting to shut down the government because we refuse to help him cram through a bill that we have already explicitly stated we are against. We are providing every opportunity to avoid a shutdown, and all we ask for is a simple up-or-down vote.

Now, I stand by the commitment I made not to support or grant consent to pass or expedite a measure that funds, supports, or allows for the enforcement of the President's vaccine mandates.

Now, it is true that the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit has issued an order halting enforcement of the

OSHA mandate, and that OSHA has temporarily halted the enforcement of that particular mandate. That does not in any way remove our obligation here in Congress to protect our Constitutional role and to prevent unconstitutional measures, laws, and regulations from afflicting the American people.

We still don't know the final outcome of that litigation. In any event, we have an independent responsibility—constitutionally and morally—to make sure that what we do here has our oversight and that we don't spend money on things that most Americans find abhorrent.

Each of us did, in fact, swear an oath to the Constitution, and the Constitution does not grant the Federal Government the authority to implement a mandate of this sort. It just doesn't. You can search it; you will not find that authority. The Constitution certainly does not grant the President of the United States the authority to implement such a mandate without the explicit authorization of the people's elected lawmakers in Congress.

Make no mistake, this mandate is not only immoral; it is also unconstitutional. For that reason alone, I must oppose it.

But the harms certainly don't stop with the damage that is being done to our constitutional order. Millions of Americans are at risk of losing their jobs due to this mandate. While court orders are offering at least a temporary protection, these Americans are still anxiously awaiting lasting protection from Congress, and currently could receive at a moment's notice the final ultimatum to be vaccinated or lose their jobs.

In fact, in fear of the huge fines that the Biden administration is threatening against businesses that don't comply once the mandate is enforced, many companies are already imposing these requirements on their workers.

Countless businesses and hundreds of Utahns who are at risk of closure or dismissal have reached out to me. Their stories are heart-wrenching. These are good people. They are our friends and our neighbors. They are neighborhood businesses and American manufacturers, mothers and fathers trying to get by in increasingly difficult economic times. There are millions of them across the country. Over half a million workers in Utah alone are at risk of unemployment due to this mandate.

As I have said each time I have spoken on this, I am not against the vaccine. In fact, I have gotten the vaccine. My family has gotten the vaccine. I have encouraged people to get the vaccine. I am against the mandate.

I recognize that these vaccines are protecting Americans from the harms of COVID-19, and that the government has no business, no authority, and no justification to make millions of Americans second-class, unemployable pariahs. Even if the Federal Government did have that authority, which it

doesn't, the President of the United States could not exercise it unilaterally, not without an act of Congress.

Our economic condition is increasingly dire. Inflation is becoming long-lasting. The supply chain crisis has shown the prime value of American workers. You know, I can't think of a worse time to kick them to the curb.

I want to be very clear: I don't want to shut down the government. The only thing I want to shut down is Congress's funding enforcement of an immoral, unconstitutional vaccine mandate. However, if the choice is between temporarily suspending nonessential functions on the one hand and on the other hand standing idle, as up to 45 million Americans lose their jobs, their livelihoods, and their ability to work, I will stand with American workers every time. That is not a closed question.

I stand with American workers throughout Utah and across America. I stand with moms and dads needing gifts and paychecks before the holidays.

I stand by what I and others committed to as our word, that word given a month ago without response. I won't support a continuing resolution that funds President Biden's grievous, immoral, unconstitutional vaccine mandate, and I just want to vote on it in connection with this spending bill. All I am asking for is a vote. It would take 15 minutes. We could do it right now, in fact.

If Senator SCHUMER wants to avoid this vote so badly that he will shut down the government rather than hold it, he should explain why. We can fix this situation right now. Let's hold a vote. Let's hold it right now.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Connecticut.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—H.R. 8

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. President, I am on the floor today to ask for unanimous consent from my colleagues to proceed to H.R. 8, the House-passed, bipartisan, comprehensive background checks bill. I want to tell you why I am making this request.

I understand the low likelihood of success, but I hope many of my colleagues took a minute to watch cell phone video from the school shooting in Michigan yesterday—on Tuesday, excuse me. It is absolutely terrifying to watch in real time children fleeing their classroom in fear that their lives were about to be ended. One hundred 9-1-1 calls came into the police during the shooting. Surveillance footage reportedly shows the gunman entering the bathroom with a backpack, then exiting a minute later without the backpack but with the handgun. He then started firing at students. When they started to run, he "methodically and deliberately" walked down the hallway and aimed his gun into classrooms at students who were unable to escape.

We think about the damage done and the number of lives lost—four so far—and those who were injured, but, real-

ly, the damage is so much broader because all of those kids who fled that violence, all of those kids who now don't think of school as a safe place—they are going through trauma and will go through trauma that may take a lifetime to address. Multiply that times millions because that is what is happening to kids all across this country who don't feel school is a safe place any longer, who don't think their neighborhoods are a safe place any longer, who grow up in parts of this country in which everyday gun violence is routine. They don't believe they will live past the age of 25.

The damage happening across this country is acute. It is real. It is pervasive. This is an epidemic of gun violence that exists in the United States and nowhere else. The risk, though, is that this country thinks about gun violence only when there is a mass shooting or only when there is a shooting at a school.

On Tuesday, the same day that the country was captivated by these terrifying images out of Oxford High School, in Taylor, TX, four bodies were found at a home in that town after an apparent murder-suicide. Police said that Anthony Davis, 57 years old, shot and killed his wife, his wife's stepchild, and the stepchild's romantic acquaintance—four people dead in Taylor, TX. Nobody knows about that nationally. Nobody knows about the other 50 to 100 people who died of gun violence on Tuesday.

This happens every single day in this country at a rate 10 times higher than any other country in the high-income world. It only happens in the United States of America. And we let it happen as a body. We let it happen as a body because it is not that we are unlucky in the United States; this is a policy choice that we make.

Let's be honest—the reason that we can't get anything done in the Senate is not because there is a disagreement amongst our constituents about what to do. Our constituents, Republicans and Democrats, support measures like universal background checks. In fact, there is almost nothing in the political world that enjoys such high support as universal background checks. Eighty percent, ninety percent of Americans—the majority of Republicans, Democrats, gun owners, non-gun owners—support universal background checks. But we can't get it done because it seems as if many of my colleagues here care more about the health of the gun industry and their profits than they do about the health of our kids. Gun industry profits are being put ahead of the safety of my children, of our children.

Shooting after shooting. Republicans in this body have refused to do anything meaningful that would reduce this pace of carnage, both in our schools and on the streets of America. As I said, it is not as if we don't know what the answer is.

Let me give you a remarkable statistic. In 2020, we saw a pretty substan-

tial increase in violent crime all across the country. That increase was about 5 percent, and a lot of that was gun crime. Gun crime went up by 25 percent during 2020. But let's break down that number between the States that have universal background checks and the States that don't have universal background checks. There was a 5-percent overall increase in violent crime in the United States, but in 2020, in States that did not have and don't have universal background checks—meaning a criminal can get a gun at a gun show or online without any background check—in those States, violent crime went up 8 percent higher than the national average. What about the States like Connecticut that have universal background checks, where we make sure everybody gets a background check before they buy a gun? In those States, violent crime went up in 2020 by less than 1 percent. That is pretty stunning. On a percentage basis, violent crime goes up by eight times the level in States without universal background checks as in States with universal background checks.

I can just run through the litany of studies that show the difference in murder rates, in gun crime between States that have universal background checks and those that don't. One of the most recent studies from 2019, a Harvard study, shows a 15-percent difference. Now, that is surprising because no matter how strong Connecticut's background checks law is, States that don't have background checks end up allowing people to buy guns there, and they come into Connecticut. So until we have a national requirement that everybody go through a background check before, at the very least, they buy a gun at a commercial sale, there is nothing Connecticut can do to make itself completely immune to the epidemic of illegal guns.

That is why we are on the floor today, myself, Senator BLUMENTHAL, and Senator DURBIN, to ask our colleagues to pass into law a bipartisan piece of legislation that has already passed the House of Representatives. This is a bill that would expand background checks to all sales in this country, with certain exceptions for transfers between immediate family members. This is a bill, as I mentioned, that is supported by the vast majority of Americans—one of the most popular policy proposals that exist in this country today. And it will save lives.

I mentioned the shooting in Texas because one of the critiques of this proposal often is, well, it wouldn't have stopped the last mass shooting. I don't claim that this proposal nor any other proposal to change the Nation's gun laws will have an effect on every single shooting, but the data is the data. These are the statistics.

This proposal is the most impactful when a State takes it. Universal background checks save lives, decrease gun violence, decrease violent crimes. The loss of life, when it is a shooting on the

streets of New Haven, one person being shot, that is just as shattering to the lives of the people who love that victim as is a mass shooting.

So I am hopeful that the Senate will make the decision today to pass this bill into law. I understand the chances are slim to none that this unanimous consent request will be adopted, but I am at my wit's end. I am at my wit's end. I am prepared to use whatever means I have as an individual Senator to come down here and press this case forward.

I ask at this point, knowing the Senator from Iowa is on the floor, as if in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 8, the Bipartisan Background Checks Act of 2021, which was received from the House; further, that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Iowa.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Reserving the right to object, I would like to give some remarks.

I want to start off with a process question to all the 100 Senators.

Obviously, this is an important issue with a lot of people. Democrats control every committee in this body, and this bill is being offered, when it could be brought up in the committee under regular order because they control the agenda of, in this case, the Judiciary Committee. So why hasn't that come up?

Then I would remind people that in 2013, we actually had a vote on a Grassley-Cruz amendment that got the most votes so far of any gun issues. That was in, I think, the year 2013.

Let's get to the issue that was brought up today by the Senator from Connecticut. Let me say that we have to have real regard for the position he takes because of the tragedy that happened in his State in 2012. Nobody is going to justify that. If they did, they would be crazy for trying to say that something bad like that happened and that it is not a crisis for everybody.

Let me start off by saying in regard to what happened in Michigan that the senseless tragedy we saw in that State should not have happened. The shooter, as we have been told, killed four and injured others in a shocking act of violence. I cannot imagine what those families of the victims are going through because I guess you would have to go through it to try to get their feeling about it. You see it expressed on television, but it doesn't make the same impact on the people who are listening that it makes on the family of the victims.

Difficult topics require across-the-aisle conversations, particularly when you have to have 60 votes to get anything done in this body. I would invite my colleagues across the aisle to have

a bipartisan conversation on this topic and a lot of related topics to it.

Violent crime and violence at schools are serious problems. I have supported legislative efforts to improve the National Instant Criminal Background Check System, which we call NICS. For example, I introduced the EAGLES Act, a bipartisan bill that would help reauthorize the U.S. Secret Service's National Threat Assessment Center, where they study targeted violence and proactively identify and manage threats before they result in tragedies.

However, in regard to the motion before us, I have serious concerns with the bill raised by the Senator from Connecticut. This bill is hostile toward lawful gun owners and lawful firearm transactions. This will not solve the problems that it seeks to solve.

So-called "universal" background checks will not prevent crime and will turn otherwise law-abiding citizens into criminals.

I have introduced legislation, along with Senators CRUZ and TILLIS, called Protecting Communities and Preserving the Second Amendment Act. Our bill will be much more effective than the underlying bill and has been supported by a majority of the Senate in the past.

And I think that is the same thing that I was referring to—a vote that got a majority but not 60 votes in 2013.

But the Democrat leadership has blocked that approach, which I assume that they will do again today.

This legislation, S. 1775, would reauthorize and improve NICS, increase resources for prosecution of gun crime, and address mental illness in the criminal justice system, which if it had been addressed properly in the case of the Parkland, FL, shooting, that individual who had been identified, I think, somewhere between 30 and 40 times as having very serious mental issues, if he had been identified, he would have been in the NICS system and not been able to buy that gun. And that is just one thing, mental illness being a problem.

And this legislation would also strengthen criminal law by including straw purchasing and illegal firearms trafficking statutes. It does that without burdening any Second Amendment rights of Americans.

In addition, this bill would require a commission to study and report to Congress the underlying causes and triggers for mass shootings. The commission and study proposed could not come at a more important time, and I urge my colleagues to support this legislation that I will suggest to the Senate on a UC request.

Therefore, Mr. President, I object to the motion that you have asked UC on.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from Connecticut.

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. President, I know the Senator has his own UC request. I will just say two things very quickly. I am not surprised, but still disappointed, in the objection.

I take the Senator's advice seriously. We need 60 votes in order to pass legislation like H.R. 8 before this body, but I think, as the Senator knows, with Senator DURBIN's guidance, I have been involved in multiple rounds of talks with Republican Senators throughout the year about trying to find some common ground. I think anyone who has been part of those talks knows that I have been willing to bend; I have been willing to compromise. I am not going to let the perfect be the enemy of the good when it comes to saving lives. And if the Senator is making an offer to join those talks or to sit down, then count me in.

But so far, a year into maybe the most deadly year in my political lifetime with respect to gun violence, I haven't been able to find one Republican taker for a compromise on the issue of background checks.

And then I will gladly send to the Senator the reams of data showing that background checks, in fact, do make a difference. As I cited, just in 2020, we see the difference between States that have background checks and those that don't.

I look forward to continuing that conversation.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—H.R. 8 AND S. 1775

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, as if in legislative session, I would ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 62, which is S. 1775, the Protecting Communities and Preserving the Second Amendment Act of 2021; further, that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Connecticut.

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, let me concede that there are some laudable pieces to this legislation. It is not new to the body. As Senator GRASSLEY mentioned, this is something that has received a vote.

But in large part, it is a massive contraction of the universal background check system rather than what Americans support, which is an expansion of the background check system, and let me give you just two examples.

In this legislation there would be a change in law, such that for individuals who are subject to psychiatric confinement, the minute they leave that confinement, they get their gun rights restored. That is not the existing law. The existing law says that if you are so mentally ill that you have had to be inpatient, you don't get those gun rights restored unless you petition.

Second, this bill would say that for individuals who have been judged mentally incompetent—this is a regulatory term, not my term. But for individuals

who have been determined mentally incompetent by a Federal Government Agency, they would have their gun rights restored. Right now, those individuals are not allowed to possess guns, but they would under this proposal.

So this amendment, while it has some, I think, important pieces to it, in large part is a pretty massive contraction of the number of background checks that would be done in this country, and for that reason I would object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from Iowa.

Mr. GRASSLEY. I made the request. So there isn't any objection, so my bill passes?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. No. Objection is heard. He did object. Objection is heard.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Before I give up the floor, I would like to suggest that we can start sitting down with the Senator from Connecticut and a lot of other Senators who are interested in this issue, both on the Republican side and the Democrat side, with the legislation that I have suggested.

The other thing I would like to comment on, just to clarify, is the Senator's statement about the recapture of gun rights under our bill: He is right. But you have got to look at why those Second Amendment rights were taken away in the first place, and I think it is the same principle that applies to people that have gone through the Social Security system and the people that have gone through the VA system. It is as simple as a little thing, that you have got to have a third party handle your finances for your family or whatever finances you have. You have to have a third party to do it. That name gets put in the NICS system, and it shouldn't be there just because you can't handle your finances. That has got nothing to do with that you ought to be denied your Second Amendment rights.

And so our legislation provides a process to make sure that the due process of the Second Amendment rights that have been denied can be recaptured, so they can have the Bill of Rights as was intended.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Connecticut.

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I wish I could end this exchange on a hopeful note. I have come here so many times wishing that an exchange like this one could lead to progress. And we have offered again and again and again—the Senator from Connecticut on background checks, myself on red flag or emergency risk orders, on Ethan's Law with safe storage, on a myriad of proposals—to sit down with our colleagues and engage in the kind of constructive and positive dialogue that Senator GRASSLEY has suggested, and they have yielded nothing. And the reason they have yielded nothing is essentially that, unfortunately, our Republican colleagues remain in the grip

of a lobby—the gun lobby—which is waning in its impact across the country but still maintains its grip in this Chamber.

That is the grip we need to break. That is the grip that will be broken through the democratic process if the American people have their way. And the American people are changing in their view.

In fact, there is now a political movement. It is composed of the young people—March for Our Lives—who suffered in Parkland, FL, when they saw the same kind of shooting and suffered the same kind of trauma that those students did in Oakland County, MI.

And again and again and again, this tragedy has been repeated in schools across our country. We are here again with grief and sorrow for the lives taken by gun violence—needlessly and violently.

Four young people—Madisyn Baldwin, 17; Justin Shilling, 17; Hana St. Juliana, 14; Tate Myre, 16—were shot multiple times, as my colleague from Connecticut has described it in that video, among many others trying to escape.

Six other students and a teacher were injured, and their community is reeling from this horror—a horror of blood and flesh and lives cut short forever.

And their loved ones have joined a club, as it has been called—a club nobody wants to join. Nobody wants to be admitted.

In just 12 days, just 12 days from now, it will be the ninth anniversary of a tragedy whose survivors joined that club—the families of the Sandy Hook children—20 beautiful, innocent children and 6 dedicated, courageous educators at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, CT.

And whenever I talk about this subject in this Chamber, I see them in the Gallery. I see them in the Gallery on the day that we failed. We failed by just a handful of votes to reach the 60 that we needed to pass a background check proposal. And one of them shouted “shame.” “Shame.” And it was shameful and disgraceful that we failed to act on that day.

Think of how many lives we could have saved. You know, in this body, we talk endlessly, and sometimes we act in a way that can affect real lives and real people. We could have saved real lives and real people on that day—not all the lives lost to gun violence, the tens of thousands who have perished since then, but some of them.

“When you save one life, you save the world” is an adage in my faith. We had it within our grasp to save lives and to help save the world, but we failed then, and, again today, we failed, even with the impetus of that horror in our minds and before us played again and again.

And, for me, the voices of those survivors resonate. Their faces are forever with me, as they will be for all who knew the survivors of the Oakland, MI, tragedy.

They have become friends. They have become almost members of my family, and they relive their own tragedy when they see what happened in these shootings.

And the trauma affects not just the children in that school on Tuesday; it affects children everywhere.

Somebody said to me the other day: Do you know the three best words in the English language these days? “Back to normal.”

We want to go back to normal. After a year and a half of the pandemic, we want to go back to normal, put kids back in school, put teachers back in the classroom—back to normal.

We are back to normal in gun violence. In fact, we are worse than normal. We are back to normal with school shootings because kids are back in school, but the rate of gun violence has, if anything, explosively increased. This normal cannot be normalized. It cannot be made the new normal. The finality of evil cannot be taken for granted.

The shame that that vote, 9 years ago, brought to this body is a stain that will forever haunt us and haunts us evermore when we fail, as we did today, to provide real action. And there isn't any panacea. My colleague from Connecticut is absolutely right. No single proposal is a solution.

And there are others that we have advanced and tried to make it a matter of bipartisan support. Senator GRAHAM and I have worked on a red flag or emergency risk protection order statute that separates people from guns when they are dangerous to themselves or others, separates them when they are under a protective order and they buy those guns, or when a family member knows they are about to commit or take their own lives, not to mention other people's lives. More than half of all the gun deaths in this country are suicides. We can save those lives.

A large number of these deaths occur when children are playing with guns in their own homes because the guns have been unsafely stored. Ethan Song was killed in Connecticut because a parent failed to safely store a gun. Ethan's Law, requiring safe storage, would save lives.

Holding manufacturers accountable and depriving them of sweetheart deals that led to PLCAA—giving them immunity from any legal accountability—reversing that immunity would help to save lives in repealing PLCAA. There is more than one proposal that we need to seriously consider if we are going to have the kind of dialogue that my colleague Senator GRASSLEY suggested.

But the simple fact is, the House of Representatives did its job back in March when it passed that bipartisan legislation to expand background checks.

We are trying to do our job today, seeking unanimous consent from our colleagues to move forward on H.R. 8, and there is no rational explanation—

none—when the vast majority of American people, gun owners as well as NRA members, all backgrounds, all walks of life, all geographic areas, all demographic areas, support this measure.

So back to normal—we are back to normal. We cannot tolerate this normal. And as we approach that ninth anniversary of the Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting—and I recall that bleak day in December when we gathered at a firehouse with parents who were waiting to find out—waiting to know whether their children were still alive.

No matter what the ages of our children—I have four—we can relive that moment in our own minds, in our own hearts, and we can see in this Gallery those parents who came to speak truth to us, speak truth to power, and who will call us to account. The American people should call us to account for our failure to act today, our complicity in those deaths. This Congress is complicit. The Members who vote against these measures are complicit in the tragedies that follow.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Illinois.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I rise in support of my Connecticut colleagues in their effort to pass the bipartisan background check bill, H.R. 8.

I want to thank my friends Senator MURPHY and Senator BLUMENTHAL for their leadership on this issue.

I am sure, as Senator BLUMENTHAL just recounted, that tragic experience at Sandy Hook Elementary School 9 years ago is still fresh in their minds and motivates them to stand up, time and again, and to speak out on behalf of the families who lost their children and those wonderful educators and administrators who gave their lives that day.

What will it take? Is there a crime involving guns in America so horrific that finally we will say enough?

Other countries have. Australia did. They had a terrible shooting. They came to the conclusion that this was just unacceptable in their nation. They wouldn't let it become normal. Some States have done that. Connecticut did after Sandy Hook. They said our State will be different. We are not going to stand just idly by.

But when it comes here to Washington in this national legislature, in this Senate, it appears there is nothing sufficiently awful, so specifically outrageous that it will move us to act.

This last week, it was Oakland County, MI, Oxford High School. Four children got up in the morning, blurry-eyed, brushed their teeth, grabbed their lunches, headed off to school—and never came home. That was the reality of this.

Senator MURPHY has said those other students, lucky enough to survive, will never forget that day as long as they live. They will be telling their grandchildren about the day they had to dive out of a window to escape this gunman who was going through their school.

I have always thought, of the most terrible gun crimes that have happened—and there have been so many, so many—Sandy Hook is the worst. I can't imagine a classroom of 20 first graders and the teachers being gunned down at their desks. Oh, my God.

For every parent and every grandparent, it is the worst nightmare in the world, and it happened there—20 of them. Certainly, many of us believed that would be the moment that America would come to its senses and say: Let's do something. If we can't do everything, let's do something to show we care. But as a national legislature, we failed.

And the proposal that we brought to the floor that was objected to today is the most basic thing in the world. OK. You have second amendment rights, unless—unless—you have given those up by committing a felony crime and being convicted of it, unless you were so mentally unstable that you shouldn't own a gun. That is basically it. That is all we said. Are those unreasonable? I think not. Eighty-four percent of Americans happen to believe that is a pretty sensible thing to do—84 percent. But when it comes to the U.S. Senate, we can't get 51 percent to vote that way—at least not yet.

So I thank my colleagues Senator MURPHY and Senator BLUMENTHAL for reminding us of the terrible tragedy in their lives and in their State just 9 years ago. But I will tell you that as horrible as Sandy Hook was, 900 people have died by gunfire in Cook County, IL, which I represent, just this year, and 40,000 Americans lost their lives to guns last year. We can't do anything about that. They are gone.

But what about tomorrow's victims? What about next week's victims? What about the next high school? We can do something about that, and this bill would pass today if Republican Senators would allow it.

Let's be very candid about this. This is a partisan issue. It shouldn't be. Those gunmen—I don't think anyone reports their political status, and certainly the victims are not identified that way. But in this Chamber, it is an article of faith, political faith, that Republicans won't touch anything related to gun safety—anything.

The bill that was objected to, proposed by Senator GRASSLEY, the protecting communities bill—first, let me say CHUCK GRASSLEY is my friend. I mean it. I don't just say that as political, idle talk. He is my ranking member on the Senate Judiciary Committee. We disagree on a lot of things. We sure do agree on a lot of things too.

The bill that he described is a step in the wrong direction, as was mentioned by Senator MURPHY. That bill doesn't fix the gaping holes in the background check system. It makes them worse. To say that people who have been involuntarily committed to a psychiatric hospital can leave that hospital, walk out the door, and buy a gun, that doesn't even make sense.

You would certainly want to ask someone, some medical expert, what is their state of mind? Have they fully recovered? Are they ready? Can they make a basic decision that we can trust? That is not too much to ask for those who are involuntarily committed to a psychiatric hospital.

Unfortunately, the Grassley bill, which we objected to, would automatically restore a person's right to buy a gun the minute they walked out of the hospital. The bill also wipes away the NICS background check system for the records of—listen—175,000 people in this country who have been found, in the words of the statute, “mentally incompetent.” This bill would allow them—permit them to buy guns immediately.

How can that make any sense at all?

Surely, the definition may not be the best, but let's work on that instead of just saying, on a blanket basis, go out and buy a gun if you want to.

The bill also weakens gun laws on the books. The bill would allow gun dealers to sell handguns directly to people from other States. How does that make us safer? And it would bar the ATF from requiring gun dealers to submit reports of multiple purchases of long guns—a key indicator of gun trafficking in many border States.

We are a long way from where we should be, but Senator GRASSLEY has challenged me as chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee to hold a hearing, mark up the bill.

I accept the challenge. We may not get to first base on this, but we are not going to stay in the stands and in the bleachers as kids are being gunned down at Oxford High School, and we are “celebrating”—if that is the word—all of the gun deaths of the past with anniversaries that bring back bitter memories and tragic occurrences.

So, yes, the Senate Judiciary Committee will have a hearing. We are going to move forward as best we can. Maybe there is common ground out there. I pray, for the victims and their families—I pray that there is.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. VAN HOLLEN). The Senator from Ohio.

BUILD BACK BETTER AGENDA

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I am here on the Senate floor today to talk, once again, about the so-called Build Back Better legislation that the Democrats are trying to force through this system on a purely partisan basis under what is called reconciliation.

I strongly believe that this massive tax-and-spend bill is the wrong way to go. I think it is irresponsible, particularly at a time of high inflation, uncertain economic growth—driven a lot by the uncertainties around the new COVID concerns—and record levels of debt.

This is the ninth consecutive week that the Senate has been in session that I have come to the Senate floor to talk about specific reasons I believe the Build Back Better legislation is a bad deal for America.

As we have talked about before, this massive new spending bill represents the largest amount of spending of any legislation ever passed by the U.S. Congress. Now, the official score is something like \$1.7 trillion. You could argue that the one that passed in March, the \$1.9 trillion, was the largest one, and that this is the second largest one.

In fact, when you look at what is in it, a lot of the spending is, in effect, camouflaged, as has been said by the folks at Penn Wharton, who analyzed this. When you take into account the programs that are relatively popular and unlikely ever to be ended—like the child tax credit—or that are likely to continue, they are sunsetted in this legislation.

If they weren't sunsetted, the cost of the bill would go from about \$1.75 trillion to about \$4.5 trillion. One analysis from the Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget has it a little higher than that, but let's say it is \$4.5 trillion. That would be, by far, the largest piece of legislation that would have ever passed the U.S. Congress.

Much of that spending is what is called stimulus spending—adding to the demand side of the economy, adding to inflation. Remember, inflation is demand chasing supply. If there is not enough supply and there is more demand, you have inflation. That is what many of us predicted would happen with the \$1.9 trillion legislation. Unfortunately, that is exactly what happened.

So, once again, at a time of devastating high inflation already, record debt, and so much uncertainty on COVID and the possible need for more Federal resources there with regard to COVID, massive new spending—it seems to me right now—is the wrong thing to do.

On the revenue side, the massive tax increases are also irresponsible, in my view, and not well thought out.

Today, I would like to focus on one new tax increase proposal in particular, and this is the Democrats' plan to propose a new 15-percent minimum tax on the domestic side. They call it the minimum book tax. It is not a tax on books; it is a tax on companies and on workers and on pensions, which we will talk about, based on the financial statement. It is not based on income as we traditionally think about it or as the Tax Code traditionally defines it, but it relies on so-called book value, and it has several negative consequences that I want to talk about today.

The new book tax, if it were to be put into effect, would drive inflation even higher. It would discourage investment in key sectors of the economy, and it would jeopardize the state of businesses that provide pension funds for their employees.

The book tax proposal is, essentially, a new corporate alternative tax. But, again, it taxes the adjusted financial statement income of a large corporation, not its IRS tax analysis; and that

is the income that might be reported to, let's say, the SEC through a Form 10-K.

This makes it very different than the existing corporate income tax, which is determined based on the income that these companies report to the IRS. Because these two taxes are calculated using very different base amounts, the 15-percent book tax can end up being a lot larger for companies than the 21-percent income tax.

The line that you will likely hear from some of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle is that this tax is designed to make big companies pay their fair share of taxes because it only applies to companies with a 3-year average adjusted book income of more than \$1 billion, but studies from the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office, the Tax Foundation, and more show that it is actually the workers who bear the brunt of these types of taxes in the form of lower wages, lower benefits, lost jobs, and higher prices. I am also hearing about a number of specific unintended, perhaps, consequences, and I am certain there will be others as well.

Let's start with its effect on workers' retirements. Under this proposal, a qualifying company ends up paying a new tax on certain investment gains, potentially due to just a change in interest rates, in their employees' pension funds. So this is a new tax. Right now, if the pension fund has an income gain, that would not be taxed, but under this proposal, it would be—under the book tax proposal. So it is basically a tax on the pensions.

First, these gains shouldn't result in a tax to the company at all. Companies do not have access to these pension investments. They sit in a segregated account. Companies can't touch them nor should they be able to touch them. Obviously, they make money for the retirement accounts of the employees. That is the whole idea. For good reason, pension funds should be invested, and they should grow over time because it benefits the workers to strengthen their retirement security.

Second, companies could be forced to pay more in taxes on the pension gains than the company makes in actual profits.

Let's take an established company, and I can tell you some of them have contacted us with specific examples of this, but they tend to be companies that are pretty well established because they have pretty big pension plans.

If you have an established company with a large pension plan, let's say that company makes a profit of 100 million bucks in a year. They could see their long-running pension fund gain a lot more than that—say, \$2 billion—over that same period.

So, under this tax plan, that company would have to pay a 15-percent tax on that \$2 billion in pension income, or about \$300 million on top of any normal income taxes. That busi-

ness then has to make a tough choice because, remember, the business has only made \$100 billion in profit, and you have a tax bill of \$300 million because of your pension income.

Are you going to go bankrupt? Are you going to take out loans to pay these taxes?

This is money that would otherwise be invested in people, in plants, equipment, in our economy. Instead, it is going toward paying a potentially large tax that is entirely counterproductive.

Third, of course, is that it discourages companies from investing in their workers' retirements. Having more invested in pension plans is good for workers. I think we should encourage employers to do the right thing, and that is to have a defined benefit plan. There are fewer of them these days. Of those that are left, we don't want to drive employers out of those, in my view.

By the way, that is the view of almost all of my colleagues, I think, on the other side of the aisle and certainly a lot of union members who have these pensions. Let's not forget that this tax could threaten the retirement of tens of thousands of union and nonunion workers alike.

But this tax proposal doesn't just jeopardize pensions; it could have a significant negative impact on how industries, particularly manufacturers, invest in growing their operations. According to data from the nonpartisan Joint Committee on Taxation, the manufacturing sector leads all other sectors in the economy when it comes to the use of what is called bonus depreciation. That is where you get to have an immediate writeoff if you expand, again, plant or equipment.

That is something that was part of the 2017 tax legislation. It has been very helpful to help grow the economy, very important to retailers, very important to hospitality, and very important, of course, to manufacturers, who lead the way in terms of taking this deduction. It allows them to quickly and affordably invest in equipment, in new machinery, leading to higher productivity, leading to more jobs—what economists think is the most important thing we can do right now in our economy, which is to grow the supply side of our economy.

Under this new book tax the Democrats are proposing, that deduction would not be able to be paid, as it is now, immediately as bonus depreciation but, rather, it would have to be paid over a longer period of time, making these critical investments a lot less likely and leading to fewer new hires and lower productivity.

By the way, less investment in capital assets, of course, puts more pressure on inflation because it increases on the demand side of the economy if you don't do it. If you do it, it would increase on the supply side. So you want to encourage investments in capital assets. That is good because it helps in terms of the supply side.

So this bill has stimulus spending, as we talked about, on the spending side, and more demand and lower investment is exactly the opposite of what we ought to be doing in terms of countering inflation.

Taking a broader view, both of these immediate negative impacts on the economy and workers—the taxes on pension funds and less financial incentive for investment—are going to lead to higher prices for consumers, which also increases inflation.

It is even worse. From what I am hearing, some of the biggest sponsors of pension plans are logistics and delivery companies. I hope my colleagues are talking to these same companies that are reaching out to talk to us. To pay for these additional costs, particularly the pension costs, they have told us they are likely going to have to increase costs, reduce customer services, and suspend investment in new technology. These are logistics companies. At a time when many Americans are already experiencing inflation and supply chain bottlenecks, this is exactly the wrong prescription.

The book tax proposal is just one of a lot of policies in this reconciliation bill that I think would be bad for the economy and bad for workers. Maybe these specific problems we talked about today were just overlooked in the rush to produce a bill without going through any of the normal committee processes, including the Finance Committee, which hasn't looked at this—those issues would have emerged, I am sure, had the Ways and Means Committee and the Finance Committee had the opportunity to review it and to analyze it—or maybe the plan is to just overwhelm the American people with so many dramatic changes to our Tax Code that they won't notice how irresponsible any single one might be. Whatever the case, it is clear that this book tax has not been properly vetted.

It is time for Congress to slow down this process so that we can properly understand the consequences of these policies on the American people. These massive tax-and-spend proposals are bad for the economy, certainly bad for inflation, bad for business, and most importantly, bad for workers and their jobs.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Missouri.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. President, this is always a very busy time of the year if we are still here, and it has been a long time since the Congress wasn't here in the first of December. There have been years within the last couple of decades where we actually got our work done fairly close to the time that the spending year started. We are not close to doing that now. In fact, the apparent best-case scenario is that we will need to extend this year's spending—the spending that ended on September 30—through most of the month of February

before we really can get down to the work that you and I would like to see happen, as we serve on the Appropriations Committee.

We are here a lot of times in December, but we are seldom here in December without having made a real start on the work that has to be done. Instead of the work that has to be done, we seem to be down to the work that our friends on the other side really want to do. Of course, that means the trillions of dollars of spending beyond what we would normally spend.

That is being described by people as transformative, as once-in-a-century, as FDR-like. The one thing it is for sure is it is 100 percent partisan. Nobody expects a single Member of the Senate on the Republican side to vote for this reckless tax-and-spending bill.

You can tell, as you listen to the description of the bill, that there is beginning to be more and more worry about what the American people are thinking that this bill might really wind up doing to their families and to the country. When they hear that it is going to be transformative, when they hear that the entire economy will be different and people's problems will change in dramatic ways, people really begin to have to wonder how that happens, particularly when we hear that this won't cost anything.

Well, of course it is going to cost something. You can say all you want to, that the cost is zero, but the cost can't possibly be zero of something that is going to transform the economy and solve people's problems. Somebody is going to have to pay for that.

At one time, it appeared that, well, maybe we will just raise every bit of those extra spending dollars on new tax dollars. That hasn't happened yet in any bill that has been brought forward. In fact, the bill that the Senate is going to receive from the House has an actual deficit, even by the Congressional Budget Office standards, of about \$350 billion.

In 2019, we almost decided that we couldn't move forward on the debt ceiling because the Speaker of the House said: We are not going to help on the debt ceiling unless there is another \$19 billion of domestic spending.

This was 2019. We spent weeks fighting about whether we would spend another \$19 billion. The Secretary of the Treasury, Secretary Mnuchin, was down here about once or twice every week in the negotiations that it would take to decide if we are going to spend \$19 billion. Now we are talking about a \$350 billion addition to the national debt, and that is even if you accept all the gimmicks in the bill.

There are other negative effects as well. One of those big negative effects will be, of course, the impact of inflation on families. We are already seeing the impact of the big—the spending bill in March, the \$1.9 trillion of spending that out of nowhere came into the economy, totally unpaid for, totally partisan.

Last year, we had five bipartisan bills that both sides worked hard to do what we needed to to respond to COVID, to try to stabilize the economy. This year, we started off the year in March with an almost \$2 trillion totally partisan bill, and that partisan bill is beginning to have the kinds of effects you would expect it would have.

Costs are going up. There is more money out there, and mostly there is just money that is just made up out of thin air. It is borrowed, where the government is borrowing from itself. We are issuing bonds and buying the bonds at the Fed and then sending money to people. They are spending that money, and, of course, that has an impact on costs.

Then there are energy policies that have an impact on costs as well—the immediate decision to not move forward with a significant energy pipeline that was being built; the immediate decision to do what we could to reduce the domestic production of energy. That has had exactly the results you would expect it to have, just like putting this money into the economy has had a result. So everything from home heating costs, which are estimated to go up as much as 50 percent this year if the weather is no worse than last year, to filling up your gas tank—we have a chance of setting a new personal record every time you pull up to the gas tank and wonder how much money you can put in that empty gas tank today—to buying groceries, to even getting people together for the holidays.

Independent analysts of the big tax-and-spending spree say that the number isn't \$1.7 trillion, but it is about three times that, about \$4.8 trillion. Now, how could you go from 1.7 to 4.8 just like that? You do it by assuming, as our friends who are sponsors of the bill do, that the spending in the bill will actually be spent over the entire 10 years.

There is one program where families with kids at home get a check every month from the government. That program costs about \$450 billion a year, and it is in the bill for 1 year. Well, nobody on the other side believes it is going to be in the bill for 1 year, and nobody voting against the bill is at all certain that it is going to be there for 1 year. Most of the analysts say, no, that is going to be there for not 1 year but all 10 years. So you add another \$450 billion times nine, and suddenly you have added trillions more in spending to the bill.

There are other programs that last 2 years, and some programs last 4 years. Almost none of the programs that are to be paid for in 10 years—and even with a \$350 billion deficit—almost none of the programs to be paid for in 10 years last 10 years. They are just in there to get the program started, to get people convinced that they really need the government to do something for them that the government hasn't done before, and then see if we can extend that.

As I mentioned, back in March, we had already done this once with a totally partisan \$1.9 trillion spending bill. What happened after March? We got inflation to a 30-year high in the August numbers and consumer confidence to a 10-year low. You have to work pretty hard to get inflation at a 30-year high and consumer confidence at a 10-year low, but that is what happens when you put \$1.9 trillion into the economy that wouldn't have been there otherwise.

So what would happen if you put \$4.8 trillion into the economy that wouldn't be there otherwise? The people who are most impacted by the results of that are the very people the bill purportedly is going to help, is designed to help. We are going to solve all of your problems. Well, first of all, the government is not going to get that done. We are going to solve Americans' everyday problems, but if you do that by raising their costs higher than their pay can go up, you haven't done anybody a favor.

President Biden campaigned on a return to normal, but he is governing on what his self-described allies say is radical change. Well, those two things seem to me to be in pretty big conflict. You can't have "return to normal" and "radical change" at the same time.

There was no mandate in the last election. The Senate is as evenly divided as it could possibly be—50-50. In the House, Democrats have the closest margin that they have had in 170 years and one of the closest margins that anybody has had in decades.

Americans want their elected representatives to stop selling every crisis as an opportunity to impose another one-sided view of how the country needs to move forward.

You hear and I hear at home and even from the press: When is the Congress going to work together? Well, we worked together last year to do five bills to respond to the COVID and economic crisis, and we did that together. That was a pretty good model. Frankly, I think it was the model that the American people were thinking about when they voted for this closely divided Congress and in a fairly closely divided Presidential race at the conclusion of the election.

Families need real solutions to the challenges they face. Reckless tax and spending, driving inflation, sending gas prices to alltime highs and home heating prices to alltime highs and increasing the cost at the grocery store—if there are things to buy at the grocery store—by 15 or 20 percent surely, isn't what we want to pass on to our children, our grandchildren, our people, hard-working families out there today trying to make things happen and make things better for their families.

I yield the floor.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Massachusetts.

TRIBUTE TO ASHLEY HARRINGTON

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. President, I want to spend a quick moment saying a fond

thank-you and farewell to a staff member of mine who is leaving.

My deep gratitude to Ashley Harrington, who is off to great adventures. Our sadness at her leaving is matched only by our excitement for her as she starts her next chapter.

Thank you for your dedication, your humor, your invaluable skills. We are going to miss you throughout our entire office.

NOMINATION OF RACHAEL S. ROLLINS

Mr. President, I come here today to speak in support of Suffolk County District Attorney Rachael Rollins, nominee to serve as U.S. attorney for the District of Massachusetts.

The fact that I and my Senate partner, Senator WARREN, have to come to the floor at all in support of this qualified, respected, effective law enforcement official is a testimony to the unprecedented partisanship of my Republican colleagues. It is truly outrageous.

Before I share more about District Attorney Rollins' record of accomplishment—a record that my Republican colleagues have intentionally distorted and mischaracterized—I want to explain how politically partisan this U.S. attorney nomination process has become.

In September, the Judiciary Committee held a rollcall vote on Rachael Rollins' nomination to serve as U.S. attorney for the District of Massachusetts. She was voted out of committee on an 11-to-11 vote. All Democrats voted aye; all Republicans opposed the nomination.

With this vote, Judiciary Committee Republicans eviscerated a three-decade precedent of voice votes for U.S. attorney nominees for all 50 States—every single time. The committee had last held a rollcall vote on a U.S. attorney nominee in 1993. And based on a review of available materials, before the 117th Congress, the Judiciary Committee had only ever held a rollcall vote on three U.S. attorney nominees: in 1993, 1982, and 1975.

The Senate last required cloture on a U.S. attorney nominee in 1993 but ultimately confirmed that nominee by voice vote. And—listen to this—the Senate last held a rollcall vote on the floor of the Senate on a U.S. attorney nominee in 1975. We have held more impeachment votes on the floor of the Senate than votes on U.S. attorney nominees since 1975.

This obstruction of District Attorney Rollins' nomination is unwarranted, unfounded, and unprecedented. Let me underscore that last point. During the Trump administration, Judiciary Committee Democrats agreed to voice vote all 85 U.S. attorney nominees who came before them, despite disagreements with multiple nominees' records and ideology. All 85 of those U.S. attorneys in the Trump era were processed by the Judiciary Committee and received a voice vote with no recorded opposition. And the Senate, likewise, confirmed all 85 by unanimous consent on the Senate floor during the Donald Trump era.

The opposition to Rachael Rollins is nothing more than a deeply partisan ploy to score political points at the expense of the record of a respected, qualified, courageous, Black, female, progressive district attorney. It is offensive, and it is not in service to public safety—in Massachusetts or across our Nation.

Let me tell you about District Attorney Rachael Rollins and why her record has garnered supported from all corners of the law enforcement community in Massachusetts and New England and from Republicans and Democrats alike.

District Attorney Rollins has public safety in her blood. Her father, a second-generation Irish American, fought in the Vietnam war and later worked as a corrections officer. Her maternal grandparents are from Barbados, and her mother is a first-generation American.

She represents the very best of what this country is all about: opportunity, public service, and plain old hard work.

As the district attorney for the county encompassing Boston and surrounding cities, District Attorney Rollins has a demonstrated record of success as a prosecutor. She leads an office of 300 employees, including more than 150 lawyers who handle 25,000 new criminal case filings and 1,000 criminal investigations annually. She leads a very busy office efficiently and effectively.

On the most serious crimes, her record is unassailable. In 2019, Rollins' first full year in office, the homicide unit's number of completed trials increased by 21 percent. Boston homicides declined by 31 percent in 2019, making it the lowest number in decades.

And she aggressively prosecutes drug trafficking. Between January 1, 2021, and October 12, 2021, just this year, the Suffolk County DA's office has prosecuted 147 trafficking cases. Of those cases, 98 involved charges of trafficking fentanyl, accounting for 67 percent of total drug trafficking prosecutions. District Attorney Rollins has prosecuted more drug traffickers than her predecessor.

I have personally met with and talked with District Attorney Rollins on multiple occasions about the opioid epidemic that is being fueled by fentanyl. There is no one more dedicated to ending that scourge than she is. She is committed to using the DA's office to hold fentanyl drug traffickers fully accountable, and her record proves that.

Her record on investigations is equally remarkable. In 2020, the homicide unit expanded its investigations by 44 percent. The major felony unit increased its by 22 percent, the human trafficking and exploitation unit by 19 percent, and the special prosecutions unit by 33 percent. Under District Attorney Rollins' leadership, her office is as active as it has ever been in going after the most serious crimes in Suffolk County.

But her excellence doesn't end there. District Attorney Rollins has demonstrated a commitment to working with law enforcement to advance community safety and build trust between the community and law enforcement officers. She and her office are a true partner for colleagues, and it is reflected in the coordination that they prioritize.

In June of 2020, she organized a key discussion with law enforcement executives from Greater Boston to have an open dialogue about policing practices in light of the racial reckoning that followed the murder of George Floyd. With her leadership, District Attorney Rollins and the law enforcement executives signed a letter committing to change and ensuring that there would be open communication on that topic.

District Attorney Rollins recognized the historic moment law enforcement was confronting in the wake of the Floyd murder, and she actively reached out to her law enforcement partners to show a united front in their commitment to justice. Rachael Rollins is proof that you can enforce laws and promote justice and that the community wants both.

As a result of this leadership, the Suffolk County law enforcement executives wrote a letter in support of her nomination to serve as U.S. attorney for the District of Massachusetts. In that letter, they highlighted the respect she has for the work they do to keep communities safe.

And in the wake of two incidents of hate against the Jewish community that occurred this summer, District Attorney Rollins led the response, using the resources of her office to investigate the incidents transparently and fully. She personally ensured that there would be a focus on this issue. She attended vigils for both events to ensure that there would be a commitment that was heard that the safety of the communities that had been directly impacted would be protected.

In a letter from the Anti-Defamation League of New England, it said of her actions: In the aftermath of the incidents . . . she demonstrated true allyship and solidarity with the affected communities. The importance of her commitment to this ideal cannot be overstated.

Rachael Rollins is a prosecutor at her core, but she also believes in restorative justice and is one of Massachusetts' greatest advocates for victims of crime. The local organizations that advocate for the rights of victims and their families—including Mothers for Justice & Equality, the Children's Advocacy Center of Suffolk County, the Boston Area Rape Crisis Center, and the Boston Medical Center's Violence Intervention Advocacy Program—all wrote letters in support of Rollins' nomination.

Mothers for Justice wrote that District Attorney Rollins' "determination to bring [to justice] those who commit crimes against community is needed at

the highest levels of Federal prosecution."

The Children's Advocacy Center of Suffolk County describes her as "a leader who clearly prioritizes the needs of children and families—bringing an approach which is both victim-centered and squarely focused on offender accountability."

District Attorney Rollins is clear-eyed in her commitment to justice—justice for victims, justice for families, justice for children, and justice for the communities that have not historically benefited from a system that has punished color, class, and creed. She is working to restore faith in the system by building a system that works for everyone.

Before she was district attorney, from 2007 to 2011, she served as assistant U.S. attorney for the District of Massachusetts. There she prosecuted civil and criminal cases, defended the Federal Government and Agencies in civil suits, and recovered damages for fraud and false claims submitted to the government.

Based on this record, she has the support of many law enforcement organizations and political leaders.

About District Attorney Rollins, a group of several current and former major city police wrote:

We do not always get along. In fact, we have disagreed strongly on issues. What we can say is that she respects us and the work we do to keep our communities safe. She can admit when she is wrong. She can also be incredibly persuasive when she is right. The constant throughout every encounter we have is a mutual respect and a willingness to learn from each other.

So, for my Republican colleagues, let me share the bottom line statistic: Crime is down in Boston. Despite the continued rise in crime nationwide in 2021, murders in Boston have dropped by one-third so far this year. According to data from the Boston Police Department, there have been 32 homicides in the first 9 months of 2021, down from 45 homicides this time last year. Murder is down in Boston. The city also saw a decrease in many types of violent crime, including domestic assault. Property crimes, such as auto thefts and burglary, are also down in the city of Boston during her tenure as our district attorney.

We know there is much more work to be done to ensure public safety and to promote justice, but under District Attorney Rollins' leadership, Boston is on the right trajectory.

Most of what we have heard from my Republican colleagues—in the committee hearing and out here on the floor—is simply untrue. Suffolk County District Attorney Rachael Rollins is a strong Black woman, committed to racial justice with a better record on crime than other old-school prosecutors, and it just plain scares them.

Her approach scares them because it is working in Boston. It can be a model for the rest of the country. Rachael Rollins is not soft on crime; she is smart on crime. Yes, District Attorney

Rollins is a progressive prosecutor. But more importantly, she is an effective prosecutor. Her extensive law enforcement credentials and proven track record of reducing crime and supporting victims is clear, and it is undeniable. She is the right candidate for U.S. Attorney in Massachusetts, and Senator WARREN and I deeply and proudly recommend her to the Senate for confirmation.

I have known District Attorney Rollins since she babysat for my brother's family. She is a dear friend and a loved friend, and I have been so fortunate to know her. And Massachusetts has been so fortunate to have her as one of our top law enforcement officials. She is one of the smartest, most effective, most respected leaders in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and her record proves that, unequivocally.

Despite the Republican effort to politicize her nomination and mischaracterize her record, I am confident that she will be confirmed as our next U.S. Attorney.

I urge all of my colleagues to vote yes on this discharge motion, as unnecessary as it should be, and to support the confirmation of Rachael Rollins as the next U.S. Attorney for the District of Massachusetts.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT

Mr. ROMNEY. Mr. President, I come to the floor to echo the sentiments of my colleague, Senator MARCO RUBIO. Our annual national defense bill is being held up because Speaker PELOSI and Leader SCHUMER are refusing to allow a vote on a provision—the Uyghur Forced Labor Prevention Act—that prevents Chinese goods made with forced labor—slave labor—from entering the United States. This bill was previously passed by the Senate on a unanimous vote.

The Chinese Communist Party's atrocities against its minorities, particularly Uyghur people, include genocide and crimes against humanity. These are well known. Uyghur women are forcibly sterilized and impregnated by Han Chinese men. Adults are ripped from their families and are sentenced into concentration camps and carry out slave labor. It is estimated that nearly 1 million Uyghur people are being treated this way and held in these camps.

There is no question that it should be U.S. policy to hold accountable those responsible for the forced labor of the Uyghurs and ensure that companies—our companies—are monitoring their supply chains and circumstances of workers making products in China, to make sure those products that are made by slave labor by the Uyghur people are not brought into this country. That is the feeling of the unanimous vote of the Senators, which we already expressed.

Congressional Democratic leadership is claiming that the problem with including this amendment is a technicality, but let's be clear that what is really happening here is there are some corporations that Democrats don't want to offend. For example, Democrats want cheap batteries for their so-called Build Back Better agenda. And nearly 80 percent of the rare earth metals, including other materials like lithium and cobalt and the like that are used to make those batteries, come from China.

And let's underscore this. When companies and politicians avert their eyes from China's predations, from China's slavery, they are effectively paying the cannibals to eat them last. China is coming for them, and it is coming for us.

Now, we have, in this year's National Defense Authorization Act, the opportunity to strike a blow against China's slavery. I implore Speaker PELOSI and Leader SCHUMER to move past procedural roadblocks and send a clear, convincing message to China and the world at large that goods produced with slave labor are not allowed in the United States of America.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO). The Senator from Indiana.

REMEMBERING REVEREND MELVIN GIRTON

Mr. YOUNG. Madam President, I rise today in tribute to Rev. Melvin Girton, the dean of pastors, a servant of God, and a great Hoosier. His death on October 29 has left a terrible absence, one that cannot be filled. For over half a century, from 1964 to 2015, Dr. Girton was pastor at the Christ Missionary Baptist Church—the same Indianapolis church home where he was baptized as a young boy.

The number of years Dr. Girton shepherded his flock is astonishing. The number of lives he touched and bettered among and beyond is incalculable. He made his church a family. He walked with his congregants through their lives, their challenges, and in difficult times, he reminded them to look up because brighter days were ahead. When one of his congregants needed surgery, she arrived at the hospital to find Dr. Girton waiting there to reassure her everything would be all right. And it was. He was a member of their families. He blessed their marriages, welcomed their children, and even taught them to buy cars and homes. And he prepared and opened the doors for countless other pastors to follow him.

Dr. Girton was also a great lover of history, which is fitting since he made a great deal of it himself. During the civil rights struggle, he led from the pulpit, on the picket lines, during the marches to the Governor's mansion, and he worked with Hoosiers from all walks of life. His work made great strides for equality and pushed Americans to realize our founding promise.

There was a time when Indianapolis's restaurants and theaters were segregated, its neighborhoods closed to

Black citizens. If rising generations of Hoosiers have no memory of this shame, it is because men like Dr. Girton ended it. He fought to open up the city's businesses, to make access to housing equal.

On April 4, 1968, Dr. Girton sat all night with Robert F. Kennedy in his Indianapolis hotel room after the Senator told a heartbroken crowd of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s, murder. The next day, he organized a memorial to Dr. King at the Soldiers and Sailors Monument at the city's center. Indianapolis is one of the few metropolitan areas in America that did not erupt in violence after Dr. King's death. Senator KENNEDY's beautiful and conciliatory speech is often credited for this, but the work of Dr. Girton and other city leaders played just as important a part.

Long after the civil rights movement, he preached kindness and love and labored to advance opportunity. He served as vice president for the Indianapolis branch of the NAACP. He was twice the vice president of the Billy Graham Crusade and regularly hosted the Emancipation Proclamation service, an annual celebration of that document of freedom.

Always searching for ways to help his neighbors, in the late 1990s, Dr. Girton transformed a boarded-up Indianapolis strip mall into a community center, providing job training, employment opportunities, a laundromat, a senior center, and even an ice cream shop.

When he reached the half-century mark at Christ Missionary, he called it a "short 50 years." No wonder—five incredible decades in a life of great purpose.

He wasn't entirely comfortable with the term "legend," but that is what he was. His passing deprives not just his community but his country of a pillar.

Despite the grief, it is hard not to be encouraged by such a wonderful life full of years of lasting achievements, courageous stands, admiring friends, and many loving children and grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Dr. Girton would often say: "God is with me, God is in me, God works through me." He was and he did.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arkansas.

NOMINATION OF RACHEL S. ROLLINS

Mr. COTTON. Madam President, in a couple of hours, Senator SCHUMER is bringing to the floor one of the most dangerous pro-crime, anti-cop U.S. nominees in American history. The Senate floor leader wants to ram through President Biden's extreme nominee to be the U.S. attorney for Massachusetts, the current Suffolk County district attorney, Rachel Rollins. In doing so, the Democrats are showing they don't care about crime as a crime wave crashes across the country, they do not support law enforcement, and they have a wanton disregard for the safety and security of Americans.

Now, it is true that we rarely have record votes of U.S. attorneys in the

Senate. In fact, I think it has been 28 years.

It is also true that Rachael Rollins is so radical that she is without precedent as a nominee to be the U.S. attorney.

Rachael Rollins is the very epitome of a Soros prosecutor, although it is generous to call her a prosecutor at all.

For those of you who do not know the term, "Soros prosecutor" refers to the wave of so-called progressive political activists backed by wealthy liberal mega donors like George Soros, who have run for local district attorney and State attorney positions throughout the country with the express purpose—the express purpose of igniting revolution and destroying our criminal justice systems from within.

They have left a trail of death, pain, suffering, and misery in their wake. Chicago has already had more than 1,000 murders this year—1,000 murders, with a month to go. Philadelphia has already had more than 500—already an all-time record. Crime is so bad in San Francisco, they closed downtown on Black Friday to avoid gangs of armed robbers smashing into retail stores and stealing everything in sight. They closed it on Black Friday because Chesa Boudin, the radical Soros prosecutor in San Francisco, has helped a crime wave destroy public safety in San Francisco so much that the liberals in that city have already announced a recall petition against him.

And perhaps most notoriously, just last weekend, in Waukesha, a career criminal with a rap sheet as long as your arm committed mass murder—one of the deadliest massacres in recent years—while he was out on \$1,000 bail; \$1,000 for a career criminal who consistently committed violent crimes for 20 years. And the Soros prosecutor in Milwaukee who let him out acknowledged that it may have been inappropriately low.

But that is not the unintended consequence; that is the intended consequence: to destroy our criminal justice system from the inside, to let violent, repeat felons out immediately and not keep them on bail, and then to not charge them with the appropriate crimes, and then to reduce their sentences when they are convicted.

What do they all have in common?

They are all pro-crime, Soros prosecutors, just like Rachael Rollins—the first one to be nominated for U.S. attorney.

Now, she is not simply a Soros prosecutor, she is one of the most pre-eminent legal arsonists in the country. She is a founding member of an organization of Soros prosecutors called the Truth, Justice, and Reconciliation Commission, which claims that the American justice system—and this is a quote; this is a direct quote—has "been a cruel and oppressive force of injustice for . . . all marginalized communities."

And she also claims—this is, again, a direct quote—"this isn't a bug in the

system, but a feature. It's operating exactly the way it was designed and built to function."

That is her view of our criminal justice system, that it is a cruel and oppressive force of injustice for marginalized communities; that is not a bug; that is a feature.

That is textbook critical race theory. Rachael Rollins believes that the American criminal justice system is racist and rotten to its core, and the Democrats want to put her in charge of prosecuting criminals in the largest State in New England. Rollins hopes to destroy the criminal justice system from within. That is not hyperbole. She has not been shy about her views, until she was nominated for this office, of course.

When asked why she became a prosecutor last year, she answered—again, this is a direct quote. I am not making it up. You may find it hard to believe. This is her own words why she wanted to be a prosecutor: "I chose to jump into this job to dismantle the system from the inside."

Soon after being sworn in as district attorney of Suffolk County, MA, she declared that she was going to battle—going to battle—against the U.S. attorney on offenses like opioids, marijuana, and immigration.

Just think about that. A newly elected prosecutor in the largest city of the State decided that her mission was not to stop criminals, not to protect innocent civilians, but to stop the U.S. attorney in that State from prosecuting criminals, and now she wants that job for herself.

I don't think so.

Mrs. Rollins also published a list of 15 crimes that she would refuse to prosecute except in special cases, sending the clear message to criminals that it was open season to commit these crimes.

Among the crimes on Rollins' presumptive do-not-prosecute list are not just things like jaywalking, but things like drug trafficking with intent to distribute, including fentanyl, malicious destruction of property, criminal threats, breaking and entering, trespassing, resisting arrest, and more.

This isn't an exercise of prosecutorial discretion in a case with exceptional circumstances. This is prosecutorial nullification. The Legislature of Massachusetts passed criminal laws that prosecutors are elected to enforce, and she refuses to enforce them.

What do you think she will do to our Federal criminal laws?

What do you think she will do to you if you are a homeowner in Suffolk County and someone trespasses on your yard and walks up to your window to see if you are home or not?

And if you are not, they will break and enter because you won't be prosecuted. And if you are home, well, they will just walk off the lawn and wait until you leave. And you dial 9-1-1, and the police won't even answer because they know Rachael Rollins won't prosecute you.

And this is the woman that Joe Biden nominated to be a U.S. attorney in this county. I don't think so.

Rollins has tarred police officers as murderers, causing the Boston Police Patrolmen's Association to condemn her for "undoubtedly incit[ing] violence against the proud men and women of the Boston Police Department."

Her response, naturally, was to accuse the Boston police of "white fragility." That is not a summary; that is an exact quote. She accused the Boston police of "white fragility."

There is a word for what Mrs. Rollins traffics in, and that word is "racism;" presuming that every officer in the Boston Police Department is guilty of "white fragility," presumably the Black and the Hispanic and the Asian ones too.

The truth is that Rollins has nothing but contempt for the rule of law. If she is confirmed, the citizens of Massachusetts and New Hampshire and all of New England will suffer the dangerous consequences. We have already seen these consequences in her own county.

In 2020, the first full year in which her policies have been in force, Boston's violent crime rate surged, and the number of murders skyrocketed by 38 percent.

When Rollins took office, Suffolk County had the fifth highest opioid overdose death numbers in Massachusetts, with 39 percent fewer deaths than the leading county. By the end of 2020, not surprisingly, Suffolk County's opioid overdose deaths had increased by 32 percent, and Suffolk County had become the second deadliest county for opioid overdoses.

If Rollins' abysmal record is brought to Massachusetts as a whole, it also poses a significant threat to the health and safety of the people of New England, especially New Hampshire—a threat that extends beyond the 100,000 Granite Staters who work in Massachusetts.

Rollins' insane drug policies would worsen the drug epidemic, which is already ravaging New Hampshire. The opioid crisis, which is fueled by narcotics smuggled from Massachusetts, is responsible for over 80 percent of drug overdose deaths in New Hampshire. Cartels and traffickers use Boston and its ports as a staging ground to smuggle vast quantities of heroin and other drugs into New Hampshire.

Rollins' failure to vigorously enforce Federal drug laws in Massachusetts will severely harm families and communities not just in her own State, but in New Hampshire and across New England.

Rollins' appalling statements, actions, and records caused Republicans on the Senate Judiciary Committee to unanimously—unanimously—oppose her nomination. That is a nearly unprecedented action for a U.S. attorney nomination, and it is not one that we took lightly.

By contrast, for example, Republicans have allowed President Biden's

other 15 U.S. attorney nominees across the country to go through committee with a simple voice vote. It goes to show that Mrs. Rollins is uniquely unfit for the role of U.S. attorney and deserves no deference from the Senate and no confirmation.

If the Democrats vote to confirm Rachael Rollins, they will be responsible for every action she takes. It is not a secret. It is right here in her record. And when crime spikes in Massachusetts and crime spikes in New Hampshire, Democratic Senators who are on the ballot next year are going to answer for it.

And I promise I will be there to make you answer for it if you vote for her today.

And if you are a Soros prosecutor around the country watching this nomination today and you think maybe you are next if Ms. Rollins is confirmed, maybe you can be the U.S. attorney, maybe you can be the attorney general in your State, I promise you, this will not be the start of a trend. I will stop at nothing to make sure none of you ever achieve higher office and none of you get reelected, because you are a danger to the families and the communities of this country.

President Biden should immediately withdraw Mrs. Rollins' nomination and should consider submitting someone who would actually be a prosecutor rather than a pro-crime, defund-the-police activist to serve as a U.S. attorney in Massachusetts.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Massachusetts.

Ms. WARREN. Madam President, I rise today in support of Rachael Rollins, the U.S. attorney nominee for the District of Massachusetts.

Rachael grew up in Massachusetts. Her dad fought in Vietnam, and then returned to Massachusetts to become a corrections officer. He sent his oldest daughter to college, UMass Amherst, and then to the law school at Northeastern, and then she went on to get a master's in law from Georgetown.

She has had experience across a broad range of public service jobs. In 2018, she decided to run for district attorney of Suffolk County, which includes the city of Boston. And in that race, she promised to decriminalize certain low-level offenses, such as shoplifting or drug possession.

The people of Suffolk County embraced her and embraced her ideas, giving her 73 percent of the vote. She is the first woman of color to be elected as a DA in Massachusetts, and if confirmed by this body, she will be the first Black woman to serve as U.S. attorney in Massachusetts.

She has the enthusiastic support of my partner Ed Markey and myself.

A dedicated public servant, Rollins has devoted her career to transforming the criminal justice system so that it actually reduces crime and provides equal justice for all. Her reform efforts have frequently focused on the root

causes of crime and have taken aim at poverty, substance use disorders, and racial disparity.

Since her nomination was announced, dozens of prominent Massachusetts Republicans, Democrats, and nonpartisan law enforcement officials, numbers of community advocates, and members of the legal community have written in support of her nomination. Among those who have spoken out publicly on her behalf are Massachusetts former Republican Governor Bill Weld, former U.S. attorneys and Suffolk County law enforcement executives, and many, many others. These are the people who know her best, the people who have worked with her, the people who know her record of success as a prosecutor.

Now, Rachael has implemented some innovative policies—exactly as she promised to do when she ran for district attorney. Those policies may not be the preferred policies of some Senators, but the facts speak for themselves.

These policies are designed to improve the administration of justice and to reduce crime, and they work. In the months following her start as a DA in 2019, homicides in Suffolk County reached a 20-year low. While homicides increased in 2020 as part of a nationwide trend following the start of the pandemic—a trend that was also seen in States like Arkansas and Texas—recent data from the Boston Police Department shows that homicides in Boston declined by nearly a third in the first 9 months of 2021. That drop—a drop of nearly a third in homicides—stands in stark contrast with nationwide crime statistics. It is not just violent crime, either; the city saw a decline in property crimes like thefts and burglaries this year as well.

Rollins has demonstrated that progressive policies can be effective in cutting serious crimes, which seems to frustrate her opponents. The policies that Rollins has pursued have helped drive down crime in our State, but it is also the strong partnership she has built with law enforcement leaders from Suffolk County that has been crucial. In fact, leadership from the Boston Police Department, the Massachusetts State Police, the Revere Police Department, the Chelsea Police Department, the MBTA Transit Police Department, and the Winthrop Police Department wrote a joint letter to the Senate to express their strong support of Rachael Rollins to be U.S. attorney.

While they admit they have not always seen eye to eye with her, they also note that Rollins “respects us and the work we do to keep our communities safe. She can admit when she is wrong. She can also be incredibly persuasive when she is right.”

They add:

Each of us have worked closely with DA Rollins on pressing and significant issues within our respective jurisdictions. She is responsive, attentive, and diligent. Her focus is on victims and how the community is impacted by violence and harm.

Nobody should be surprised that Rollins’ approach to prosecution is yielding reductions in crime. Nonpartisan research published by the National Bureau of Economic Research confirms why this is the case. After an analysis of 17 years of data and over 67,000 cases from the Suffolk County DA’s Office, the study found that defendants whose misdemeanor charges were dropped before arraignment were 58 percent less likely to return to the criminal justice system in the next 2 years, and they were more likely to avoid charges for any serious violent crimes.

By pursuing these policies, Rollins has freed up limited resources in her office to focus on the people and the crimes that actually pose the biggest threats to the community.

Now, critics are quick to distort these statistics and Rollins’ record and the details of her approach. This partisan sniping here in Washington bears no relationship to the reality on the ground in Suffolk County, MA. For example, even with her reform policies in place, Rachael has prosecuted more drug traffickers than her predecessor. Between January 1 and October 12 of this year, the Suffolk County DA’s Office prosecuted 147 trafficking cases. Of those, charges of trafficking in fentanyl accounted for 67 percent of the total drug trafficking prosecutions. Just by comparison, her predecessor prosecuted only 130 trafficking cases during the entirety of 2018, of which only 40 percent involved fentanyl trafficking charges.

Now, look, it is no surprise that some rightwing voices have sought to make an issue out of Rollins’ nomination, and it is unfortunate that many Republicans who should know better have fallen in line behind this campaign of fearmongering.

When a rollcall vote on her nomination was forced in the Judiciary Committee in September, Republicans quickly tossed out three decades’ worth of precedent and attempted for the first time in over a generation to override the President’s choice of a U.S. attorney nomination.

I want to remind my colleagues that every single one of the 85 U.S. attorneys nominated by Trump—every single one—was moved by voice vote despite significant disagreements about the policies, views, and records of several of those nominees—every single one of them. But Rachael Rollins and President Biden couldn’t get that same kind of consideration.

This kind of political grandstanding has unjustly deferred the confirmation process, not only for Rachael Rollins but for many other well-qualified nominees who just want to get to work serving the people of this country. It is also extraordinarily disrespectful to the scores of on-the-ground law enforcement leaders in Massachusetts and others who support this nomination.

Our police chiefs, our prosecutors, our former U.S. attorneys, our former

Governors, Republicans and Democrats, do not need to be told by national politicians who know nothing about our community that their support and their understanding of what we need just really doesn’t matter. They do not need to be told that the personal political benefit of attacking this well-respected prosecutor is somehow more important than what all of the data and all of their own experiences tell them about what actually reduces crime and improves the administration of justice in Massachusetts. What our law enforcement professionals need, what the entire Commonwealth of Massachusetts needs is for the Senate to confirm this highly qualified nominee.

Now, I have every confidence that Rachael Rollins will continue her partnership with law enforcement, with community advocates, and with other key members of the legal community to ensure the safety and well-being of all of the people of the Commonwealth in her new role. I look forward to the renewed energy and innovative vision that she will bring to the U.S. Attorney’s Office.

Senator MARKEY and I want to publicly thank our Massachusetts bipartisan advisory committee for all of the work they did to identify and recommend candidates like Rachael Rollins to the role of U.S. attorney. I want to thank President Biden for nominating her to this position.

I urge my colleagues to set aside nasty personal attacks on a supremely well-qualified woman and to support the discharge and ultimate confirmation of Rachael Rollins, a supremely qualified candidate who is ready to serve on day one as the next U.S. attorney for the District of Massachusetts.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Michigan.

Ms. STABENOW. Madam President, first, I want to thank my colleague from Massachusetts for her very important comments about a very important, well-qualified nominee.

OXFORD HIGH SCHOOL SHOOTING

Madam President, today I rise to speak about a heartbreaking tragedy that far too many American families and communities are familiar with. Americans have learned that gun violence can happen in any place, at any time, in any State, and in any town.

This time, the community is Oxford, MI, home to about 20,000 people in northwest Oakland County. It is a place with beautiful lakes and bike trails. It is a place where people know each other. It is the kind of place where the neighbors might drop off some Christmas cookies or clear your sidewalk after a snowstorm since they were doing theirs anyway. Now, it is the kind of place that has been needlessly, senselessly shattered by unspeakable violence.

It was a typical Tuesday at Oxford High School, home of the Wildcats. The Oxford band and orchestra had recently

returned from a trip of a lifetime, performing at Disney World. Student leaders were celebrating a successful Thanksgiving food drive—almost 5,500 cans of food collected for the local food pantry. Athletes in winter sports were getting ready for Meet the Teams Night. But in an instant, everything changed. Everything changed.

We are still learning the details, and, frankly, that is not what is important. What is important is that, thanks to the cold efficiency of modern weaponry, it took mere minutes for a gunman to shatter a community. Thankfully, law enforcement officers showed up within minutes, but still, 11 people were shot. Tragically, four students have died. We hope and pray that there are not more deaths, but several other Oxford students remain in the hospital in critical condition. A typical Tuesday in a typical high school in 2021 in America.

Madisyn Baldwin was a 17-year-old with a beautiful smile. According to her grandmother, she was a kind and patient big sister and an artist. She had already been accepted to a number of colleges.

Justin Shilling, also 17, was cocaptain of the school's bowling team and also loved to golf. He worked at Anita's Kitchen, a Lebanese cafe in nearby Lake Orion, where his boss said everyone loved him.

Tate Myre, aged 16 and a tight end and running back on the Oxford football team, had recently been honored by the Michigan High School Football Coaches Association. He was also an honor student who was known as a leader both on the field and in the classroom.

And Hana St. Juliana was just 14 years old. She was passionate about volleyball and basketball. Her teammates say they will never forget her kind heart and her silly personality and her passion for the game. They have dedicated their upcoming season in her memory.

Madisyn, Justin, Tate, and Hana—four lives that were just beginning, four losses that have left their families and their community struggling—struggling—to understand.

And we certainly know that Oxford is not alone. This year alone, there have been shootings at 29 schools in our country—29 schools—from Rigby Middle School in Rigby, ID, to Timberview High School in Arlington, TX, to Heritage High School in Newport News, VA. No community is immune. Just ask the grieving residents and the grieving parents of Oxford.

This community will come together. They already have. They will hold prayer vigils and deliver casseroles and wrap their arms around these shattered families. But, in God's name, why should they have to?

High school students should be sharing memories of last month's band trip or celebrating a successful food drive or looking forward to the spotlight of Meet the Teams Night. They shouldn't

be ducking for cover in their classrooms or fighting for their lives in the ICU because they just happened to be in the wrong hallway at the wrong time, and they certainly shouldn't have their names mentioned during a speech on the floor of the U.S. Senate after yet another school shooting in 2021 in America.

Madisyn, Justin, Tate, Hana, and the more than 100 Americans who are killed by gun violence every day deserve more than thoughts and prayers. They deserve action to keep them safe, and we certainly will focus on this in the days ahead. What I know for sure right now is that we must refuse to settle for a world in which a typical Tuesday turns into such tragedy.

My deepest, heartfelt sympathies to everyone in Oxford and throughout our State. I share in their grieving of this senseless, senseless tragedy.

I yield the floor to my partner and colleague in the U.S. Senate, Senator PETERS.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Michigan.

Mr. PETERS. Madam President, there are no words that can capture the terror and the tragedy of the horrific events that unfolded at Oxford High School on Tuesday afternoon.

In a matter of minutes, a routine school day was twisted into scenes of chaos, shattering the safe environment that Oxford High students and teachers and families trusted in. This shocking event will change their lives forever. Our heart breaks for every Michigander in America who continues to be affected by this tragedy and so many others like it.

It was a scene that has become all too familiar in America. A gunman opened fire inside a public school, taking four young lives and wounding seven other people. Four students went to school that morning with bright, exciting futures ahead. They never made it home.

Hana St. Juliana, the youngest victim, was only 14 years old. A freshman who was a promising athlete on the volleyball and basketball teams, her teammates remember her as having a kind heart, a silly personality, and an absolute passion for sports. Her father remembers her as the happiest kid, who had a full life ahead of her before it was tragically cut short.

Madisyn Baldwin, a 17-year-old senior and the oldest of three siblings, was preparing to graduate this spring. An aspiring artist and talented student, she recently celebrated acceptances to several colleges, including some under a full-ride scholarship. She will always be remembered by her family and friends as a kind, smart, and loving girl.

Tate Myre was 16 years old, No. 42 on the football team. Tate was a star student athlete and was recently honored with an all-region award from the Michigan High School Football Coaches Association. He had already started college recruitment visits and was

looking forward to many more until the unthinkable happened. His friends, his family, and his fellow students remember him as someone who always put his full heart into everything that he did.

And Justin Shilling, a 17-year-old senior, was cocaptain of the school's bowling team. His coworkers called him an exemplary employee, a devoted friend and coworker, and simply an absolute pleasure to be with.

As we mourn Hana, Madisyn, Tate, and Justin, we must also remember the victims who were injured during this attack. At this very moment, dedicated doctors and nurses are working around the clock to ensure that the wounded can swiftly recover. We are all thinking of them and wishing them well, along with those who were wounded, treated, and have now been discharged from the hospital.

As a parent, I just simply cannot imagine the grief and anguish that these families are forced to endure and the unimaginable pain that these parents are feeling in knowing that they can never—never ever—hold their loving child again.

I am grateful for the brave first responders who quickly responded to this harrowing scene. Thanks to their swift and brave actions, the suspect was apprehended within minutes, preventing even more unspeakable carnage from unfolding. There is no question that the heroic actions of first responders, law enforcement officials, and emergency medical technicians saved lives on Tuesday. We cannot thank enough these brave men and women for all that they do each and every day to keep our communities safe.

For the students and the educators who lived through this horrific act, I can only imagine the trauma and the fear that they will spend the rest of their lives with.

Children who should have been focused on their math homework or on their reading assignments spent terrifying moments fighting to survive and keeping one another safe. Reportedly, as bullets pierced classroom doors, students grabbed scissors and calculators, anything they thought they could use, to defend themselves.

Parents—many of whom received text messages from their children saying there was a shooting and that they loved them—frantically searched for their children in a parking lot in the aftermath, praying that they would be reunited.

The panic, the fear, and the helplessness of being trapped in this nightmare scenario is something that no child, no teacher, and no parent should ever, ever have to face. Now these survivors need our support as they work to process and heal from the shocking and horrific ordeal.

To the Oxford High School community, please know there are millions of Americans who are lifting you up and who share in your sorrow.

In the days and weeks ahead, we may learn more about the heroic actions

that students and teachers and first responders took to stop this tragedy from being even worse, but the most heartbreaking fact is that this should have never ever happened in the first place. A school should be a safe place.

I was struck by the words of so many students who said that they had been training for a day like this since elementary school. These students and their teachers had participated in active shooter drills. They knew to lock and barricade doors, to hide, to stay silent, and to run. They had heard about other school shootings wherein the assailants had tried to trick or lure students into their sights, and they stood strong until they knew they would be safe.

While I am so grateful that these lessons, undoubtedly, saved many, many lives this week, I am also heartbroken that our children and our educators have to bear this burden.

There is no easy answer, but it is clear that we must take action. Far too many communities have been devastated by these attacks, and we cannot wait for yet another community to suffer without having tough conversations on what actions Congress should take. The unsettling reality is that our children's lives are at risk when they enter a classroom, and that is something that we simply cannot tolerate.

I know the Members of this body have different policy views, but surely we can agree that a school should be a safe place. Surely we can agree to listen to the students in every single one of our States who say that they live in fear that they could be killed at their desks, and we could agree to have a serious discussion of what needs to change.

There is no single solution that would have prevented this tragedy, like so many others, but let's have a serious discussion about what needs to change to ensure that warnings reach the right officials and that those officials know what actions to take.

Let's have a serious discussion about gun safety issues, background checks, reasonable limits on high-capacity magazines, and closing loopholes that allow dangerous weapons to get into the wrong hands.

And let's have a serious discussion about what our schools, our teachers, and our students need to stay safe. Whether it is more access to counselors, strong threat assessments, or more resources, we have to find common ground that will keep our schools safe. We cannot stand by when we know that it is only a matter of time before the next school, the next community, is shattered.

For Hana, for Tate, for Justin, for Madisyn, for the students, teachers, and families of Oxford High School, and for every student, teacher, and family in the United States, we must act. The time is now.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. BALDWIN). The junior Senator from Alaska.

TRIBUTE TO BETH BRAGG

Mr. SULLIVAN. Madam President, it is Thursday, and it is usually the day I get to come down to the Senate floor. Usually, the Senate is kind of wrapping up things; we are still pretty busy right now. But it is the day I love to come down to the Senate floor and talk about somebody in my State, the great State of Alaska, who is making a difference either for their community, for their State, for the country; you name it. We call this person the Alaskan of the Week.

We have done it a lot. I usually like to give a little bit of an update. The pages typically really like this time of the week because we get to tell stories about Alaska, about the adventure of Alaska, but also about—typically, a little update about what is happening in the State.

Right now, we are in a bit of a cold snap pretty much throughout the State. We are getting a lot of snow throughout the State. We have seen some record low temperatures all across Alaska, from Homer, King Salmon, Bethel.

Monday in Fairbanks—so this is not even into December yet—it was 26 below zero. They are tough in Fairbanks, very tough. You get down to 50, 60 below in Fairbanks.

My wife is from Fairbanks. She is a wonderful volunteer for this organization called Covenant House. They did their annual "Sleep Out." It is a homeless shelter for teenage youth. This was in Anchorage just a couple of weeks ago. It was 15 below for the "Sleep Out." You get a cardboard box and say: Good luck. So, boy, she is tough.

Alaskans across the State are rugged, tough, individualistic, and we bond all the more for it. We are in it together when it is that cold. And it frequently is. And like one big community, one of the many things that brings us together—actually, one of the many things that brings Americans together—is bonding over sports: local sports, State sports, national sports, and your local newspaper as it relates to sports reporting. It is actually a universal instinct.

One of our most famous Supreme Court Justices, Earl Warren, said it best:

I always turn to the sports section first [in the morning]. The sports page records people's accomplishments. The front page [usually] has nothing but [people's] failures.

I am not sure that is always true, but it is a good anecdote in terms of what binds us with regard to sports.

You know, over the holidays, in particular, everybody in America watches great football, other sports activities. I had a good chat over lunch today with Coach Tuberville about the really incredible Alabama Auburn game that just happened last week.

But sports is also the place in our local papers where we see the names of our children, our loved ones, our neighbors, our friends. In fact, it might just be the only time their names appear in

the paper at all, when you think about it.

So our Alaskan of the Week this week is somebody who knows sports and sportswriting in Alaska better than anybody. We are talking about Beth Bragg, who recently retired after 35 years as a sportswriter for the Anchorage Daily News. She understood all of these attributes about sportswriting better than anybody.

During her 35 years at the paper, Beth always told cub reporters there was one rule they must always follow, no matter what. She said: Even if the person's name is something like Cindy Jones, ask that person for the spelling. It might be the only time their name appears in the paper, and it is very important that name is spelled correctly.

Now, let me talk about Beth, about her reporting and about her work and how it has added to our communities across the great State of Alaska.

Beth grew up in Billings, MT. Her father worked for the Billings Gazette. And she, too, while still in high school, joined the paper as a sports clerk so this is in her blood.

Now, it wasn't so much that she was crazy about sports back then, but it was a job, a good job. And then she said she began, bit by bit, to fall in love with newspapers and sports reporting. She liked the irreverence, the strict deadlines, the energy.

Importantly—and it is almost counterintuitive—covering sports allows more fun in the writing, the opportunity as a writer to take a little bit more in terms of chances and to be more creative than maybe on other beats. And throughout the years, Beth has brought so much of this kind of creativity, so much heart to her stories.

Without looking at a byline in Alaska, you always knew when you were reading a Beth Bragg story. So, in 1986, when she was 27 years old, she came to Alaska to write for the Anchorage Daily News. That is our State's biggest paper. She thought she would stay for a few years, then move on. Her dream was to cover professional sports, maybe even Major League Baseball in a city that has got a Major League Baseball team, but as the years progressed, she stayed in Alaska. She fell in love with Alaska, and her ambitions as a sportswriter changed. But, in some ways, they got even bigger.

She discovered that, in her words, "the real reward, and the real challenge, is to find stories that resonate with everyone. And you don't have to be at the Super Bowl to do that."

In fact, Beth said she found more interesting, more unique stories to cover in Alaska than probably anywhere else.

Now, we don't have big-time professional sports teams in the great State of Alaska, but we do have sports, loads of sports. And just like so much about Alaska, we have expanded the meaning of what it means to partake in sports.

Let's take one very famous sport in Alaska, the Iditarod—the famous 800-

mile sled dog race—as one big example. There is also heli-skiing, ice climbing, curling, and snowboarding. It didn't get its start in Alaska, but it reached its apex in Valdez, for those who participated in that incredible sport.

Beth is likely one of the few, if only, reporters in the country who reported on this incredible sport in Alaska at 3 a.m., seal-skinning. Yes, that is a sport. It goes along with the ear pull and other sports in terms of competition at the World Eskimo Indian Olympics, which are incredible to go to and watch in Alaska—great athletes, by the way.

She covered seal skinning, the competition. At 3 a.m. she was tired, but the excitement and the smell of the seals—first frozen, then thawed for the competition—kept her wide awake.

We may not have professional sports teams, but we certainly have athletic stars galore in Alaska. For 35 years, Beth has written about these stars and some of the toughest athletes anywhere in the world. Let me give you a couple examples.

She wrote about athletes running Mount Marathon. Now, I gave an “Alaskan of the Week” speech several months ago about Mount Marathon. It is what *Outside* magazine calls “the toughest 5K on the planet”—straight up a mountain and straight back down. We always do it on July 4 in Seward.

She wrote about the Alaska Wilderness Classic, the 150-or-so-mile “secret race” up mountains and across rivers in the Alaskan wilderness. Here are the rules of the Alaska Wilderness Classic: No outside support, nothing human-powered, leave no trace, and rescue is up to the racer. Pretty tough. Pretty tough.

She wrote about the Arctic Man, another incredible Alaska event that has been described as one of the world's toughest downhill ski races and an exciting snow machine race, all combined together. You want to see something amazing? Go to the Arctic Man.

She has written about swimming heats and cross-country track and field matches; skiing, lots of stories about skiing in Alaska; ice hockey; high school football; basketball games; and, as I mentioned, the World Eskimo-Indian Olympics, with the ear pull and the blanket toss.

She wrote a great story about a mother and son literally tied by rope together for 2 weeks climbing Denali, North America's tallest peak, in Alaska.

There was a story about a sled dog that was cut loose and ran away from her Iditarod sled dog pack. Miraculously, this dog found her way home to her kennel through mountain ranges and hundreds of miles of tundra in the dead of an Alaskan winter. Pretty amazing.

She wrote a great story about an event I attended this past June, an inspiring USA Patriots-Amputee Softball Team event where almost every player on that team were some of our greatest

American heroes. Almost all of them had lost a limb—all of them had lost a limb, mostly in combat.

Always at the center of Beth's stories are the people, even when those people are sled dogs. She has written about their victories; their struggles; their heart for the game, for their teams, for their communities, for their State, for their country, and for life itself.

Thinking back on her long career, a few events stay with her. She talked a lot about what it was like to watch Alaskans compete in the Olympics, four of which she attended—Olympic Games.

Now, we are a huge State. I talk about that a lot. We have a pretty small population relative to other States—730,000 people. But Alaska is really good in terms of Olympic athletes. We punch way above our weight, sending some of the top American athletes to especially the Winter Olympics but also the Summer Olympics.

Beth remembers, for example, the electricity in the Olympic stadium in Norway in 1994 when a little-known Alaskan named Tommy Moe shocked the world by winning the gold in the downhill and then, 4 days later, a silver, becoming the first American skier ever to win two medals at the same Olympics.

She remembers writing stories about the legendary and beloved cross-country skier from Alaska Kikkan Randall when Kikkan was just 13 years old. Then, like so many Alaskans, Beth swelled with pride and cried when Kikkan Randall won the gold in 2018.

Beth said she also cried just this summer when 17-year-old Lydia Jacoby from Seward, AK, shocked the world by winning the gold medal in Tokyo this summer in the 100-meter breaststroke. Remember that? Seward, AK, doesn't even have an Olympic-size swimming pool. And I will say, Lydia Jacoby is the only person in U.S. history to be Alaskan of the Week in the U.S. Senate twice. That is unbelievable.

Of course, there are heartbreaks, too—the losses, the illnesses, the injuries, and sometimes the deaths—all of which Beth has handled with the utmost sensitivity. Because she was at it for so long and has so much history with Alaskan athletes, she understood something about them that a new reporter might not. It takes a certain kind of grit to be an athlete in Alaska, to wake up at 6 a.m. and head off into the dark, subzero weather to train. It takes a certain kind of grit to travel outside of Alaska for competitions, often thousands of miles away from your home, to get noticed. As Beth said, “You have to work hard to make it big” in Alaska. As a result, she thinks Alaska athletes have a sense of home in a way a lot of other athletes don't.

As I said, Beth recently retired. She is going to clean her home; maybe travel some; of course, watch some sports, as a fan now, not as a reporter. She leaves behind a great legacy, thou-

sands of stories charting some of our State's greatest moments in athletics, times when we all cheered and cried and came together to support the best of our people and competition and grit and determination—the reason Americans across the country love sports so much.

So, Beth, thank you for your great job. Congrats on an incredibly stellar career, and, of course—I am sure one of your biggest honors ever—congratulations on being our Alaskan of the Week.

JOHN KERRY

Madam President, we are working on the NDAA. Is anyone watching what is happening on the Senate floor right now? It has been stalled in terms of amendments, and it has been stalled, reportedly, because of an amendment—a simple amendment that I think the vast majority of Americans would agree on—that Senator RUBIO is trying to get a vote on.

But, as there are with so many stories in the last 6 months, there is something about the climate envoy John Kerry, who keeps coming into different stories, and he is in this story as well. He seems to show up everywhere, always when somebody in this administration is doing something to undermine American interests. There is something about John Kerry.

Let me give you the latest. Senator RUBIO is trying to move forward with regard to an amendment on his bill, the Uyghur Forced Labor Prevention Act. It is essentially a pretty simple bill. Human rights communities agree with it. I think everybody in the Senate agrees with it. It, in essence, just says that we shouldn't be importing solar panels and other products made in China that are produced with forced labor or slave labor. What American wouldn't agree with that? What American wouldn't agree with that? I think every Senator agrees with that. But evidently there is one American who disagrees with that.

Here is an article today from the *Free Beacon* that talks about senior Biden officials are worried that this bill stopping slave labor products from China coming into America will undermine “the White House's climate agenda” and, unfortunately, “limit solar panel imports from China.”

Presidential climate envoy John Kerry, among others, has been lobbying House members against the bill.

Wow. Wow. That is remarkable. Why would he do that? Why would he do that? Someone needs to ask John Kerry that. That is just one example. Something about John Kerry—always in the mix undermining American interests.

This is an article from the *Washington Post* just about a month ago: “In advance of climate summit, tension among Biden aides on China policy.” In essence, it said John Kerry was in Beijing—a very dangerous proposition, by the way; you want to talk about selling out American interests—

and he was begging the Chinese to cooperate on climate change, but they said they are not going to commence—I am reading from the Washington Post—cooperation until the United States tones it down on human rights, Hong Kong, Taiwan, and trade.

So the Chinese are saying: Hey, we are not going to do anything on climate, John Kerry, unless you go tell the President to tone it down on Hong Kong, Taiwan, human rights—slave labor, probably. Dutifully, John Kerry came back to DC and delivered the message. It is all in the Washington Post right here, October 25.

To their credit, Jake Sullivan and others were pretty furious, according to this article, about John Kerry undermining U.S. interests. But, hey, there he goes again. Remarkable. I mean, whose side is this guy on?

Let me give you another example. One of the great things that have happened in America over the last two decades is this incredible revolution in terms of American energy. For decades, it has been the bipartisan policy of every administration—pretty much every Senator—for America to become energy independent. Until the Biden administration came into office, we have achieved that. Again, every administration since World War II, Democratic or Republican: Being energy-independent would be good for us.

One of the ways we have done this is this incredible revolution in the production of American natural gas. It has made us the leader in reducing global greenhouse gas emissions in the world, by far. Since 2005 to present, the United States has reduced emissions by almost 15 percent—more than any other major economy in the world. China's emissions have gone like this.

So you would think the export of American LNG all around the world, which is happening, would be great for our workers—it is; great for our national security—it is; and really good for the environment—it is. In fact, we are even exporting to India and China. That will help them reduce emissions. This is a win, win, win, win, win.

So imagine my surprise when I met with foreign officials—I won't name them—who have said to me: John Kerry is telling us in our country, in Asia and in Europe, don't buy American natural gas.

What?

Don't buy American natural gas.

Why?

I don't know.

But there he goes again, undermining U.S. interests, undermining American workers, and, by the way, undermining the global environment on that one. If you don't buy American natural gas, you are going to be producing coal in China.

This is what I have heard.

And then let me give you one more. I came on the floor several months ago, only about 5 months ago, and called for the resignation of John Kerry after the interview of his friend the Foreign

Minister of Iran, the largest state sponsor of terrorism, Foreign Minister Zarif, who was recorded in an interview that was leaked that said John Kerry told him a couple years ago, when Zarif was the Iranian Foreign Minister, about covert Israeli actions against Israeli interests in Syria.

Now, think about that. According to news reports, Zarif is heard saying—and we all heard the video—“It was former US. . . . Secretary John Kerry who told me Israel had launched more than 200 attacks on Iranian forces in Syria,” selling out and betraying our biggest ally in the Middle East, Israel.

There is something about John Kerry, and every time that guy goes on a mission, you can be assured that American national security interests are being undermined. So here is a Christmas present I think the whole country would benefit from. For the good of this country, this former Secretary of State, former U.S. Senator, needs to ride off into the sunset in his private jet and retire, or resign, or maybe the President can just fire him. We don't need him to undermine American interests anymore.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic whip.

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. WARNOCK). Without objection, it is so ordered.

VOTE ON MOTION

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that all remaining time be yielded back.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The question is on agreeing to the motion to discharge.

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. BLUNT. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO), the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. HAGERTY), and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE).

The result was announced—yeas 50, nays 47, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 475 Ex.]

YEAS—50

Baldwin	Carper	Gillibrand
Bennet	Casey	Hassan
Blumenthal	Coons	Heinrich
Booker	Cortez Masto	Hickenlooper
Brown	Duckworth	Hirono
Cantwell	Durbin	Kaine
Cardin	Feinstein	Kelly

King
Klobuchar
Leahy
Lujan
Manchin
Markey
Menendez
Merkley
Murphy
Murray

Ossoff
Padilla
Peters
Reed
Rosen
Sanders
Schatz
Schumer
Shaheen
Sinema

Smith
Stabenow
Tester
Van Hollen
Warner
Warnock
Warren
Whitehouse
Wyden

NAYS—47

Blackburn
Blunt
Boozman
Braun
Burr
Capito
Cassidy
Collins
Cornyn
Cotton
Cramer
Crapo
Cruz
Daines
Ernst
Fischer

Graham	Portman
Grassley	Risch
Hawley	Romney
Hoeven	Rounds
Hyde-Smith	Rubio
Inhofe	Sasse
Johnson	Scott (FL)
Kennedy	Scott (SC)
Lankford	Shelby
Lee	Sullivan
Lummis	Tillis
Marshall	Toomey
McConnell	Tuberville
Moran	Wicker
Murkowski	Young
Paul	

NOT VOTING—3

Barrasso	Hagerty	Thune
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The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The nomination is discharged and will be placed on the calendar.

The Senator from New Hampshire.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, I also originally planned to come to the floor this afternoon to ask unanimous consent to support the nomination of Mark Gitenstein to be U.S. Ambassador to the European Union.

Mark is a qualified candidate to represent the United States with our most important trade and security relationship. He has already served our Nation as U.S. Ambassador to Romania. He is deeply familiar with the geostrategic needs of our Central and European allies, and he has spent over 25 years working on energy issues. This experience is going to be critically important in responding to Russia's weaponization of gas flows to Europe.

As the United States confronts the challenges around the world, we need to convey our firm commitment to our partners and our alliances.

Now, unfortunately, I am not going to be able to move forward with this unanimous consent request because our colleagues on the other side of the aisle can't seem to muster anyone to come down and object to my unanimous consent request.

It is hard for me to understand why they have an objection to Mr. Gitenstein when they are not even willing to come to object, and we know they are here.

His confirmation would be important to advance our bilateral conversations on shared national security interests, such as this week's dialogue between the United States and the EU on China. But for these conversations to make meaningful progress in addressing our national security interests, we need our diplomats and State Department officials at the table.

I had the privilege of leading a bipartisan delegation to the Halifax Security Forum 2 weeks ago. We had three Republicans and three Democrats.

One of the things we heard from our allies was that there was a real impact by having a lack of ambassadorial confirmations in countries, particularly in our ally countries. In the absence of U.S. representation, they are really questioning our commitment to our bilateral relationship.

In addition to Mr. Gitenstein, there are over 50 other State Department nominees waiting confirmation on the floor.

Now, if our colleagues on the other side of the aisle really shared the concerns about Russia and China's growing malign influence in the world that threatens the values we have fought so hard to advance, they would lift those holds without delay. They would understand that it is important for our national security to have Ambassadors in these critical posts around the world.

I am deeply disappointed that our Republican colleagues have opposed the confirmation of Mr. Gitenstein's appointment to the European Union, and I find it strange that at a time when we should be swiftly confirming our Ambassadors so that we can engage with our allies and address challenges like China and Russia, that what we are hearing from our colleagues on the other side of the aisle is they want to hamstring our national security and play into the hands of our adversaries.

Now, I understand that some of my Republican colleagues have decided to hold up dozens of ambassadorial nominees because of this administration's handling of Nord Stream 2. I don't think I need to remind anybody that I have long been opposed to Nord Stream 2. But this opposition is precisely the reason that we should be appointing an ambassador to the European Union because without an ambassador, we have been absent in critical conversations on sanctions, on trade, on security, and on energy. And without an ambassador, we are limited in our ability to push for further sanctions to address Russian aggression, especially with our European allies.

Without an ambassador, we can't effectively engage our allies. We are actively playing into Putin's hands by creating opportunities to sow division and discord within the transatlantic community.

Partisan politics should end at the water's edge, as it has for decades in the United States. I urge those few Republicans on the other side of the aisle who are holding things up to stop this needless obstruction.

The U.S. is stronger and safer when our diplomatic corps—those individuals who support Americans and U.S. foreign policy around the world—are supported by capable, Senate-vetted, and confirmed Ambassadors.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Virginia.

Mr. KAINE. Mr. President, Parliamentary inquiry. This is impromptu because I wasn't aware of this until the Senator from New Hampshire just spoke.

Is it the case that a Senator making a live UC on the floor to advance a nomination can be blocked from making a live UC by someone who will not even agree to appear on the floor of the Senate?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. It is a courtesy between Senators.

Mr. KAINE. I have learned something new about the Senate rules that I wish I did not know.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arkansas.

Mr. COTTON. Mr. President, for the record, I would object on behalf of anyone who is not here, and so the question is moot.

If the Democrats really wanted all these nominees to go forward, maybe you should talk to the President about the fact that he caved in on Nord Stream 2 sanctions.

I know the Senator from New Hampshire has been strong on that, but she could have stopped any single bill or nominee going forward by insisting that the President impose Nord Stream 2 sanctions.

Now we are in a situation where all of Western Europe is hooked on German gas and Vladimir Putin is about to invade Ukraine, and the best we can get is stern words.

So, yes, I would object on behalf of any Senator who is not present, and I don't even know what I am objecting to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Hampshire.

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, just to respond to Senator COTTON—and I know that he shares my view about Nord Stream 2. But I think, sadly, at this point we are in a position where, by refusing to allow our diplomats to be in place, we no longer have an ability to negotiate.

And, in fact, the gas has not started running in Nord Stream 2; the certification of that pipeline has been delayed; and we have a new administration in Germany that we have heard a number of members of that administration express serious reservations about Nord Stream 2.

So I am not sure that right now—given the need for transatlantic unity, the need for us to be able to work with our European allies on whatever Russia might do on Ukraine—is the best time for us to send a signal that we don't really care what the administration is doing on this issue and we don't really care what the Germans say about it, all we care about is making a point on Nord Stream 2, when what we really need to be doing is working together with our European allies because what Putin wants more than anything else is to sow dissension between the United States and our European allies. And, by this action, he is doing exactly that.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arkansas.

Mr. COTTON. Mr. President, 8 months—for 8 months any Senate Democrat could have stepped forward and demanded the President impose Nord Stream 2 sanctions. For 4 years—for 4 years—we stood together and cast votes—with 85 votes, 90 votes, or 95 votes—in defense of Nord Stream 2 sanctions when the Democrats were discovering their inner Jack Ryan when it came to Russia.

But now that Donald Trump is gone from office and Joe Biden is in office and he is appeasing Vladimir Putin at every turn by extending the New START Treaty and by not imposing sanctions on Nord Stream 2, suddenly the Democrats have reverted back to their old, conciliatory ways toward Russia.

The simplest way to deter invasion of Ukraine, the simplest way to deter Russian aggression is to draw clear red lines of enforcement—something that Joe Biden will not do; something that, apparently, the Democratic Senators will not force him to do.

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, I just have to take real umbrage at your suggestion, Senator COTTON.

I am the one who Vladimir Putin refused a visa to get into Russia because of my opposition to Russia and to what Putin was doing. He didn't deny you a visa to get into the country. So don't talk to me about how I have not been tough enough on Russia because that dog won't hunt.

The fact is, during the Trump administration, he spent 4 years before he would sanction Nord Stream 2. Finally, right before he left office, he put sanctions on.

The only reason the western companies that were working on Nord Stream 2 stopped their work is because of the threat of sanctions, not because Trump did anything to enforce those sanctions.

So there is plenty of blame to go around, and it doesn't help for you or me or anybody else to start throwing personal insults over what is going on around Nord Stream 2.

Mr. COTTON. Mr. President, I did not make any personal insult. I simply observed that, for 4 years under the Trump administration, we repeatedly took action on a bipartisan basis to try to stop Nord Stream 2.

One of the reasons we didn't have a vote on amendments last week on the Defense bill is because the Democrats were carrying water for the Biden administration, refusing to have a vote on Nord Stream 2. And that is consistent with the Biden administration's record on Russia, which can get all chesty in its rhetoric but always appeases Vladimir Putin.

One of the first actions he took was to give a no-strings-attached extension to the New START Treaty, something that Donald Trump never did—the very first priority of Vladimir Putin.

The second priority was Nord Stream 2. We have been trying to have votes in

this Senate all year long, and we haven't had them because the Democrats won't insist on a vote because Joe Biden doesn't want it.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. KAINE). The Senator from Oklahoma.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. 3299

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. President, we have a problem in our Air National Guard right now.

This body knows full well where I have been on vaccine mandates coming down from the President. I have adamantly opposed the vaccine mandates on private-sector employees, which I find absurd that the President is announcing to every company with 100 people or more: I am going to take over the contracts for employment in your company; and no matter how long that employee has been there and how valuable they are to the company, you need to fire them if they don't follow the vaccine mandate.

That is not the right of a President. It has formed chaos in our Federal workers. It has formed chaos in our contractors for Federal employees.

Now, let me tell you what is happening in the National Guard right now. Tuesday of this week, November 30, the Secretary of Defense sent out a letter saying that, by today, December 2, every person in the National Guard had to be vaccinated or they would no longer be paid.

Now, that applied to the Air National Guard as of today; but to the Army National Guard, that doesn't apply until June 30. Let me run this past this body again. If you are in the Air National Guard and you are not vaccinated by today, you won't be paid anymore. You also can't show up at drill this weekend. You can't go into any training at all, as of this weekend. But if you are in the Army National Guard, you have until June 30 to be able to fulfill this mandate.

Now, I have been clear I am adamantly opposed to the mandate, period. But to then make it unequal between the Air National Guard and the Army National Guard is even worse.

And on top of all of that, what the administration did as of this week—they sent out information for the Air National Guard members and, I assume, for the Army National Guard starting in June that this is going to be a different process.

Title 32 is the authority for the National Guard. Now, for folks who aren't following this or the folks in this body who do, some people get confused between the Reserves and the Guard. They are not the same. The Reserves are like Active Duty. The Guard actually work for the Governor of each State.

Each State has accountability for the Guard members, and there is a responsibility to make sure they are trained and ready and equipped for Federal service if they are called up for Federal service. But when they are under what is called title 32 authority, they work for the Governor of the State. If a unit

is not prepared, the State is punished for their lack of preparation. So funds can be taken away from the State but not going down to individual members of the Guard.

What did the Pentagon do this week?

The Pentagon, this week, announced that not only are they not going to pay individual members, but they are literally reaching down into a unit, identifying members that have not received the vaccine, and they are not going to pay that person.

There is no authority in law for the Pentagon to do that. In fact, that issue was debated in this body several years ago, and this body voted no on that. The Pentagon does not have the authority to reach into the Governor's National Guard and determine who will be paid and who will not be paid in the National Guard, but that is exactly what the President is trying to do and what the Pentagon is trying to do.

Why is this a big issue?

Because the Air National Guard, as of tomorrow, that are not vaccinated will not be paid, and this weekend they cannot go to drill.

Why is that a big issue?

Many of the folks in the Air National Guard that are not vaccinated are the pilots.

Listen, if we are going to talk about military readiness, I understand the differences of opinion here in the vaccine mandates. And some people have no issue with the vaccine mandates. I do. But we should all agree on military readiness. We should all agree on following the law and not allowing the Pentagon and the President to deliberately violate the law that we wrote and the President has signed in violating title 32.

Last night, I was on this very same floor, at this very same desk, asking for amendment on the NDAA. Today, I understand I am not getting that amendment on the NDAA. I have taken that same amendment and I have moved it into language that we can use as a standalone bill.

This is a very simple, straightforward, no issues, no ancillary anything on the bill. It simply says that we cannot allow the administration or the Pentagon—any one of them—to violate the law, to be able to reach into a National Guard unit and identify individual members and not pay them.

That is already the law. We are just affirming the law that already is.

And the second thing is not allowing them to be able to cut off pay based on their vaccination status in the National Guard when they are in title 32 status. That means they are working for the Governor of that State; they have not been activated to Federal duty.

This is a big issue, and it is a big issue right now because the Air National Guard members and many of our pilots are about to stop training right now. And in the days ahead for the Army National Guard, I remind this body of a number that most of us

know. Only 40 percent of our Guard members are vaccinated, meaning 60 percent are not.

Are we really ready to lose that much readiness over this issue?

I would hope not.

So, as if in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to immediate consideration of Calendar No. 174, S. 3299. I further ask that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, reserving my right to object, the Senator from Oklahoma, as he always does, has very thoughtfully identified a problem that is affecting our military forces. And he has also identified the complex interplay between different aspects of the law: article 32, article 10, the authority of the Governor, the authority of the Secretary of Defense, legislation we might have passed.

This is an issue that, I think, bears close scrutiny, and I would like to assist in such scrutiny. But in terms of preemptively adopting a statute tonight without such scrutiny, I would be compelled to object.

So, Mr. President, with all due respect to the Senator from Oklahoma, I would object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

The Senator from Oklahoma.

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. President, I look forward to working with Senator REED on this. He has been a good partner dealing with this. He is passionate about protecting our military and keeping our forces ready.

I very much appreciate his partnership in that, and I look forward to our ongoing dialogue on this. I have had multiple phone calls to leadership in the Pentagon and leadership in the National Guard. I am not getting clear answers on this.

As I have tried to be an advocate for the members of our Air National Guard, I want to be able to make sure that we provide them that opportunity to be able to serve and that we don't lose access to readiness. So I very much appreciate his partnership in that.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. President, it is my understanding that in a short period of time we will be voting on the continuing resolution.

The continuing resolution has now been passed in the House. It has been delivered over to the Senate. This maintains our government operations for the next 2 months.

I have been a person who has expressed my frustration that we have not taken up the vast majority of the appropriations bills, even in committee. It is my understanding that even as of today, 9 of the 12 appropriations bills have not even been discussed in committee, and all 12 of those bills

should have been done by September 30. We are now well past that now.

On September 30, we passed a continuing resolution that went until tomorrow. Now we are passing another one that is going to go into February. As I read through it, as it just came over from the House of Representatives, and was scanning quickly through it when they actually released the language in it this morning, I was interested to be able to see a couple of things that popped out to me in particular, serving on the Homeland Security Committee. Serving that position in Homeland Security and some of the issues that we deal with on a day-to-day basis on oversight, I was fascinated to see two particular areas that popped out to me in this. One of them was dealing with unaccompanied minors.

The administration earlier this year took some of the COVID money that had been allocated in March and used that COVID money to deal with unaccompanied minors. We have yet to get a full accounting of how much that was. But then when the continuing resolution was passed just September 30, 2.5 billion with a "b"—2.5 billion additional dollars were allocated just to deal with the surge of unaccompanied minors for this year.

Well, that was a few months ago now. This continuing resolution is allocating another \$1.5 billion to unaccompanied minors. So they took we don't know how much money of the COVID money for unaccompanied minors, and then if this bill passes tonight, which I assume it will at this point, it is another \$4 billion just on the unaccompanied minors. Let me remind you how large of a figure that is, an additional \$4 billion.

Before we lose track of that, what jumped out at me first when I went through this was a surprising number. In the continuing resolution that just came over from the House just minutes ago, there is a request for an additional \$7 billion for Afghan refugees. When you say "OK, I understand," in the September 30 continuing resolution, there was \$6 billion for Afghan refugees over there. That is \$13 billion for Afghan refugees. The best that we can tell, we have 69,000 Afghan refugees who are in the process, and we are allocating \$13 billion for it.

Now, we all thought—and we had the conversation here—that \$6 billion that was allocated was an enormous amount of money that was allocated, but now, 3 months after the refugees started being able to move out of Afghanistan in that debacle of a withdrawal that happened, now we are talking about not \$6 billion but \$13 billion. That is around \$200,000 per person so far.

If that was not bad enough, in the continuing resolution done September 30, because of the enormous size of this amount of money and because of how little information has actually come to this body, there was a demand in it that by November 30—that was 2 days ago—the Department of Homeland Se-

curity would have to turn over a report of actually what is happening with the Afghan refugees. Has anyone in this body read that report from DHS now on how they are handling the Afghan refugees? I would go ahead and preemptively answer no because none of us have seen the report yet.

Here is what we don't know but yet this body demanded in the last CR to be able to get from DHS. We demanded to know crazy things like this: the number of lawful U.S. permanent residents who were evacuated out of Afghanistan. We don't have that number yet. We don't know how many were special immigrant visa holders. We don't know how many were actually applicants for special immigrant visas. We don't know the number that had any other immigrant status. We don't know the number who actually worked for our government who were actually evacuated. We have not been told although we demanded to have it by November 30.

We don't know the number of people who work for a partner government or any other entity that we were affiliated with although we asked for that. We don't know the number of people who actually came through the process and then were later determined to be security threats to the United States and had slipped through the process. We asked for that. We asked for that to come in by November 30. That has not been turned over.

We asked for the number of people who were getting paroled and their parole was then terminated because of some other criminal activity or something else. We asked for that. That is a number they have. They have not turned that number over.

We asked for even the number of interviews that had been conducted. We have yet to receive that. In fact, there has not been a single public hearing in the Senate on Afghan refugees—not one. So not only have we not received anything in writing, we have not even received any testimony from anyone from DHS on this.

Listen, we gave DHS \$6 billion and said: We are going to allocate this money to you. We just want to know who we are allocating it to and what it is going to be used for.

That doesn't seem unreasonable. But not only is this body not holding DHS accountable for not answering our questions, we are handing them \$7 billion more tonight. Does anyone else see this as an issue?

I am all for keeping the government open, but this body has a responsibility of oversight. We have pretended we are doing oversight, but we are actually not doing oversight—not a hearing, not a report, nothing. Thirteen billion dollars.

So, yes, I am going to oppose the CR tonight. I am not holding up the vote. I understand full well the responsibility of all 100 of us to put ourselves on the record. But if we are going to actually say we are going to do oversight, let's actually do oversight.

It is not unreasonable, when we all agree these are the facts and figures that should come from DHS to just tell us what is going on with the Afghan refugees, that we actually expect they are going to turn those things over.

So in the days ahead, I hope we will actually hold a hearing and actually get the facts. I hope we will actually demand that they turn over to us what we have required, and I hope we get a full accounting of how they are spending \$13 billion on what we understand were 69,000 people, most of whom have not even been moved in and across the United States yet—\$13 billion.

With that, I yield floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Illinois.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Ms. DUCKWORTH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate consider the following nomination: Executive Calendar No. 438, C.B. Sullenberger III, for the rank of Ambassador during his tenure of service as Representative of the United States of America on the Council of the International Civil Aviation Organization.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There being no objection, the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of C.B. Sullenberger III, of Texas, for the rank of Ambassador during his tenure of service as Representative of the United States of America on the Council of the International Civil Aviation Organization.

Thereupon, the Senate proceeded to consider the nomination.

Ms. DUCKWORTH. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate vote on the nomination without intervening action or debate and that if confirmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, all without intervening action or debate; that no further motions be in order to the nomination; that any statements related to the nomination be printed in the RECORD; and that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Sullenberger nomination?

The nomination was confirmed.

Ms. DUCKWORTH. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, it is my hope that soon the Senate might be able to vote on a bipartisan agreement to keep the government open and funded through February 18.

I know both parties are working on that agreement right now. I wish those who are doing it good luck. I have certainly been working hard with the Appropriations Committee to help on that as have others. In fact, the only thing

worse than running the government under a continuing resolution, a CR, is a government shutdown. A shutdown only hurts the American people. We know last time we had one, it wasted billions in taxpayer dollars.

And with the agreement that I anticipate, I am glad that the bill will include critical funding to support Afghan refugees as we help them get resettled here in the United States. These brave women and men were our allies through 20 years of war. We have an obligation to support them as they begin their new lives.

I am not giving this speech as some kind of a victory lap. We are 2 months into the fiscal year, and we appear no closer to getting an agreement on full-year appropriations bills.

Now, if we vote on this, which I hope we will soon, we are buying time to complete these negotiations, and we have to complete these negotiations. It is not a matter of whether we should; we have to. But in order to complete these negotiations, we have to begin them. We have to have both sides represented at the table. My Republican colleagues, to this day, have not come to the table. I have been talking to many of them, and I am hoping they will because the American people deserve better than that from their elected officials. They expect to see both Democrats and Republicans sitting down negotiating—no matter how we vote in the end, that we are working on coming to something that will be voted on.

On October 18, nearly a month and a half ago, Senate Democrats released a comprehensive offer in an effort to jump-start these negotiations. We wanted to let all Senators—both parties but especially our Republican colleagues and the American people—know our values. Since then, it has been very, very quiet. We haven't heard any response.

Let me tell you about our offer. I believe the offer was fair. I talked with Senators across the political spectrum. We provided a 5-percent increase for defense programs compared to last fiscal year and a 13-percent increase for all other programs. I took that 5 percent because it is exactly the amount passed by a 25-to-1 vote by the Senate Armed Services Committee. It certainly is significantly higher than the 1.7-percent increase for defense proposed by the Biden administration, and the amount is lower than the 16 percent the administration proposed for nondefense programs, even though I would like that 16 percent. But it is called compromise. We took from one; we gave to the other. It is compromise. It is how you get things done. Nobody gets every single thing they want, even if you are chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee.

As I mentioned earlier, the 5 percent wasn't something I picked out of thin air. It was the exact amount contained in the fiscal year 2022 National Defense Authorization Act, NDAA, that is be-

fore the Senate this week and again reported from the Senate Armed Services Committee. I think it was 24 to 1, but it was overwhelming.

The work on that bill has fallen due to Republican obstructionism over a series of amendments. To be clear though, none of the amendments Republicans are fighting for on the NDAA would increase total spending in the bill. That is because the 5-percent increase has bipartisan, bicameral support—Republicans and Democrats, both in the House and the Senate. That is the percentage they agreed to. Republicans unanimously endorsed the 5-percent increase when the NDAA was marked up in the Senate Armed Services Committee. And the 5-percent increase passed overwhelmingly in the House when they considered the NDAA over 2 months ago.

I have been here for 47 years. This is as close to consensus as we can get—unanimous and near-unanimous votes. So I have to ask, why not take yes for an answer? If I was a cynical person, I would think this delay was deliberate. If I was a cynical person, I would think this delay was meant to drive us into a full-year continuing resolution. If I was a cynical person, I would think that because some in the Republican Party have even expressed this desire out loud.

But for a party that claims to care about our Nation's defense, I suggest they do the math. A full-year CR would not only reduce defense spending instead of increasing it, it would reduce it by \$37 billion compared to the levels set forth in the NDAA that they voted for unanimously. Actually, it would cut defense spending below last year's level.

So stop the hyperbole. Stop the rhetoric. Deal with the reality. I have to ask those Republicans who are advocating for a full-year CR is their support for our Nation's security merely political theater? I hope not because what they are asking for is a tremendous cut in defense, not an increase.

But also I look at the nondefense area. The impact a full-year CR would have on American families in all corners of this country is equally unthinkable. Housing, education, childcare, critical healthcare programs—every one of these are at risk under a full-year continuing resolution. I can't possibly imagine that any Senator of either party is going to go home and say: Oh, I support huge cuts in housing, education, childcare, critical healthcare programs. I cannot possibly believe that is an outcome the other side would endorse, but that is what they are asking for in a CR.

Every week, it seems I receive letters from advocacy groups and industry associations—both those normally associated with Republican positions and those normally associated with Democratic positions—and they all say the same thing. They detail the problems that would come from the full-year CR and ask us to do our job and enact full-

year bills. Among those, they include the National Defense Industrial Association, the Aerospace Industries Association, numerous veterans groups—all groups we say we support.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that four of these letters be printed in the RECORD at the end of my remarks.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. LEAHY. These four letters and others expressing concern can be found online at <https://www.appropriations.senate.gov/download/advocacy-and-industry-group-letters>.

Let me be clear. Refusing to come to the negotiating table undermines national security and inhibits our ability to invest in American families, impedes our capability to respond to the coronavirus and what we now see as emerging variants—which I am sure the Presiding Officer hears in his State, I hear in my State, and I guarantee you in the other 48 States, every Senator is hearing about that concern.

But also there are 100 of us. We are elected to represent the whole country, 325 million Americans. We are elected to do our job. If we don't do it, it is irresponsible. That is the reason we are here today kicking the can down the road another 2 months.

Let's stand and vote yes or no on these issues. We have a job to do. The bill we will soon vote on, which I expect will be coming over soon from the House, gives us roughly 2 months to do it, and that is plenty of time.

But I would ask the Republican leadership to step up and engage, and I hope they will do it in the next few weeks.

I am prepared any day—any day, any weekend, any evening, any morning, whenever—if we could do this. Otherwise, we are going to be back here February 18, and the American people, no matter what party they belong to, are going to say: What are you folks doing? Where is this legislation?

So when the bill comes over, I urge my colleagues to vote aye on the bill, but I urge my Republican colleagues to work with me and with the House to ensure that we do not have to pass another one in February.

I have talked with Members of the Republican Party and the Democratic Party. They will tell me privately they are willing to work, they want to work, and they want to get it done. I appreciate that, but now is the time to step up and do it. I think we can. I hope we will.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

NATIONAL DEFENSE
INDUSTRIAL ASSOCIATION,
Arlington, VA, November 1, 2021.

DEAR CHAIRMAN LEAHY, CHAIRWOMAN DELAUNO AND RANKING MEMBERS SHELBY AND GRANGER: On behalf of the thousands of companies represented by the National Defense Industrial Association (NDIA) and across the defense industrial base, we write to request

the expedited completion of the defense appropriation bill. While we applaud the bipartisan effort to pass a continuing resolution (CR) and avoid a government shutdown, it is a poor stand-in for the full-year appropriations desperately needed by our warfighters and those who provide them with the equipment and services that enable their mission.

We cannot stress enough the importance of the defense appropriations bill to our national security and to a healthy defense industrial base. The limbo caused under CRs wastes precious time and money our nation cannot recover. Delayed new starts and initiatives place a strain on companies and their workforce, particularly as they recalibrate operations to a post-pandemic normal. Our nation's competitors face no similar challenges putting us at a competitive disadvantage, particularly with emerging technologies, and place our supply chains at increasing risk, something we cannot afford after the nearly two years of pandemic impacts.

Doing business with the Federal Government is already hard. The tomes of regulations, burdensome business requirements, sometimes Kafkaesque contracting and oversight procedures, and compressed margins have combined to drive businesses out of the defense sector with a net outflow of well over 10,000 companies since 2011 and, as noted in our annual Vital Signs report, a halving of new entrants to the sector between fiscal 2019 and fiscal 2020 alone. Add to that the uncertainty of "if and when" a full-year defense appropriations gets signed into law, more companies will reassess their participation in the defense industrial base. The ultimate price of this is paid by our warfighters who will lose out on innovations and new capabilities not delivered.

The inefficiencies caused by beginning 12 of the last 13 fiscal years without full-year funding have cost the military services billions lost in inefficient expenditures and program delays. Also, delayed contract starts challenge larger contractors while threaten the existence of smaller prime contractors and small businesses down the supply chain. The effect of that has a human face and a long-term impact. To execute a new-start contract, a company must recruit, hire, and train a workforce despite a tight labor market and a shortage of workers with the required security clearance. Faced with a delayed start, that company must now choose between two bad options, either pay that workforce to stand idle or let those workers go—both of which could lead to contract or business failure and undelivered capabilities to our service members.

With no full-year funding, we cannot afford to go too long without hampering readiness recovery efforts, delaying capabilities to our warfighters, and postponing investments in advanced technologies while allowing our defense industrial base to erode. NDIA supports a bipartisan agreement on domestic and national security spending and encourages the adoption of a two-year budget to prevent another year of budget instability and to provide the needed support to the Department of Defense for their critical missions.

We appreciate your attention to this critical issue and look forward to working with your Committees moving forward.

Very respectfully,

HERBERT J. CARLISLE,
*General, USAF (Ret),
President and CEO,
National Defense Industrial Association.*

ARNOLD L. PUNARO,
*MajGen, USMC (Ret)
Chairman of the
Board, National Defense Industrial Association.*

AEROSPACE INDUSTRIES ASSOCIATION,

November 2, 2021.

DEAR MAJORITY LEADER SCHUMER, SPEAKER PELOSI, RANKING MEMBER MCCONNELL, AND RANKING MEMBER MCCARTHY: The United States aerospace and defense industries are an essential partner with the federal government in an array of efforts vital to our economy and our national security. Each fall, that partnership is tested when those programs are slowed down or deferred by the use of multiple continuing resolutions (CR) to keep the government running. On behalf of our vital industries and our more than two million employees, the Aerospace Industries Association (AIA) strongly urges you to reach a near-term agreement on fiscal year 2022 funding to avoid further CRs beyond December 3, 2021.

Government watchdogs continue to document the waste and unnecessary disruption that CRs cause to federal programs. Multiple agencies advised the Government Accountability Office (GAO) in a 2021 report that longer CRs "contributed to distortions in agencies' spending, adding to the rush to obligate funds late in the year before they expire." The GAO determined that contracting officers working under a CR must continuously align the period of performance under their contracts to the specific timeframe of a given CR, resulting in many unnecessary contract modifications during the year. Hiring of new civilian staff is also delayed, making it harder for agencies to meet their goals. The GAO notes that agencies apply creative workarounds in the first quarter of each fiscal year, because they assume that appropriations bills will not be in place by the beginning of the fiscal year. However, these effects become far more serious, and agency staff have fewer options, when CRs continue into the second quarter and beyond.

The Department of Defense (DOD) is uniquely harmed under CRs because these bills typically prohibit DOD from starting new programs or activities or increasing any program's production rate beyond that of the current fiscal year. Both 'new starts' and rate increases are critical for our national defense because our defense posture and threats are always evolving. As CRs extend to longer periods during the year, this is an increasing problem for which DOD seldom gets relief. DOD reported to the GAO that between FY10 and FY20, they had requested exceptions to CR language (called "anomalies") 1,258 times and had only been granted three percent of those requests. Most of these requested relief from the prohibition on new starts and rate increases. We strongly believe that, should Congress produce CRs extending into the second quarter of FY22, it should eliminate the prohibition on new starts and production rate increases.

FY22 is the first year in a decade when discretionary spending levels have not been fixed in statute by the Budget Control Act. AIA has long argued that statutory caps are not needed because Congress and the administration are able to assess and address the needs of the nation more effectively, and with greater oversight, through the annual appropriations process. Last year, Congress enacted all 12 full year appropriations bills by December 27. If Congress fails to once again enact full-year appropriations bills, or continues running the government into 2022 under continuing resolutions, it will send the wrong signal to the government's partners, like those in our industry. We count on stable, reliable and adequate funding to support the critical capabilities that we provide for all Americans.

Like other industries, COVID-19 took a serious toll on our workforce and the thousands of small- and medium-sized businesses along the supply chain that are at the heart

of the aerospace and defense industries. More than ever, businesses across all industries need predictability and consistency.

We again ask that you ensure that all government programs receive full Fiscal Year 2022 funding on or before December 3, 2021.

Sincerely,

ERIC FANNING,
President and CEO, Aerospace Industries Association.

COALITION ON HUMAN NEEDS,
November 24, 2021.

DEAR CHAIRMAN LEAHY: On behalf of the Coalition on Human Needs, I am writing to strongly urge you to do everything in your power to enact omnibus FY 2022 appropriations legislation including all 12 subcommittee bills, and thank you for your leadership towards this end. Our nation badly needs the increased funding provided in the Senate and House Appropriations Committee bills. We face many increased needs, a great many exacerbated by the pandemic and its economic dislocations. For more than a decade, funding levels for vital human needs programs have shrunk, especially taking inflation into account. If Congress fails to enact omnibus appropriations legislation and instead defaults to a long-term continuing resolution (CR) with flat funding, we will seriously damage our capacity to respond to the multiple public health and economic crises we face.

Members of the Coalition on Human Needs, including human service provider organizations, faith groups, labor, civil rights, policy experts and other advocates concerned with meeting the needs of people with low incomes, enthusiastically welcomed the funding levels provided in the Biden FY 2022 budget and the House and Senate Appropriations Committees. We have tracked nearly 200 human needs programs over the past decade. Between FYs 2010 and 2020, we found that two-thirds of these programs, covering health care, housing, nutrition, social services, education, training, and more, had lost ground, taking inflation into account. In the past year, we have begun to rebuild. But the needs are also growing.

We now face rising prices affecting necessities including utilities, food, and rent. Flat funding from a prolonged CR would fail our people by not providing needed increases in programs such as the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). The Senate Labor-Health and Human Services-Education Subcommittee-introduced bill increases funding by \$175 million. This is too modest when taking into account that natural gas heating costs are projected to rise by 30 percent this winter and heating oil is expected to rise by 43 percent; flat funding would be wholly inadequate. Nutrition programs will also need funding increases because of rising food prices. The Senate Labor-HHS-Education Subcommittee proposal includes \$576 million for home-delivered meals for seniors, an increase of \$300 million above the FY 2021 enacted level. Responding to a serious increase in people experiencing homelessness, the Senate Transportation-Housing and Urban Development Subcommittee-introduced bill would increase Homelessness Assistance programs to \$3.26 billion, \$260 million more than FY 2021. These funds would expand services for homeless youth and people fleeing from domestic violence, and would provide additional permanent housing for chronically unhoused people. While the Senate Subcommittee bill would cover current rental voucher program costs, the House bill would expand rental assistance to 125,000 additional households. These increases are vitally needed. For the first 11 months of this year, median one-bedroom apartment rents rose 12.1 percent; for

two-bedroom units, the median increase was 13.2 percent. In the previous two years, median rent increases were less than 1 percent. Flat funding for housing and homelessness programs would be simply unacceptable.

We have for some time faced a substance use crisis, and have reached 100,000 deaths from opioid overdoses already this year, up from about 93,000 in 2020. The Senate funding level for the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) is \$9.1 billion, \$3.1 billion more than funding in FY 2021. Without this substantial increase, we will not be able to cope with the continuing rise in opioid addiction.

The pandemic has markedly increased mental health problems. From August 2020 to February 2021, the CDC reported an increase in adults with anxiety or depressive disorders, from 36.4 percent to 41.5 percent, and reports rose of unmet mental health care needs. The proposed SAMHSA funding levels allow us to respond more adequately. The Senate Labor-HHS-Education Subcommittee proposal would increase mental health services overall to \$2.97 billion, an increase of nearly \$1.2 billion over FY 2021. In particular, the Senate Subcommittee bill more than doubles funding for the Mental Health Block Grant, to \$1.58 billion for FY 2022. The House-passed funding for Labor-HHS-Education makes a welcome increase in Children's Mental Health funding, stopping the inflation-driven erosion that caused a 14 percent reduction from FY 2010 to FY 2020. We must not return to flat funding when the pandemic has adversely affected the mental health of millions of children and adults.

Over the past decade, we allowed our public health capacity to diminish, and as a consequence we were not ready to cope with COVID-19. The Senate Labor-HHS-Education Subcommittee appropriations bill increases the Centers for Disease Control about \$1.85 billion over the current year, allowing for the agency to rebuild so that it can more effectively respond to COVID-19 and future health threats.

We know our economy is hampered by a mismatch between jobs available and people with the skills to fill those positions. FY 2022 appropriations proposals include increases in Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act programs (WIOA), YouthBuild, Registered Apprenticeships, and Reintegration of Ex-Offender programs, as well as a new National Youth Employment Program. These will lead to jobs with higher pay and broadly shared economic growth. These increases are needed to overcome a ten-year 17 percent reduction in WIOA programs and to move us forward.

There are too many important programs to list here. But we do wish to underscore that children have experienced many hardships during the pandemic, including unprecedented losses in education and alarming increases in reports of households with children sometimes or often not having enough to eat. The historic increases proposed in Title I K-12 education for students with low incomes and in special education funding are urgently needed to help children overcome the educational setbacks they have experienced. Title I spending rises by at least \$16.6 billion over FY 2021, and there will be a \$2.6 billion increase in IDEA state grants for more than 7.6 million students with disabilities.

The FY 2022 appropriations bills drawn up in the House and/or Senate include many important funding increases to help families care for their children. Funding for the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) nutrition program must accommodate an increase in benefits that was extended through the end of December in the current Continuing Resolution, and must not be allowed to expire at that time. In addition to the mental health,

housing, nutrition, and education funding already mentioned here, there are badly needed increases in child care, Head Start, early learning programs, and child abuse prevention and treatment programs. There are also urgently needed increases in funds to care for unaccompanied migrant children: at \$4.9 billion, a \$3.6 billion increase over FY 2021 in the Senate Labor-HHS-Education Subcommittee bill.

The nation's recovery depends on strengthening a host of domestic programs that have been allowed to shrink for years, not just to get to where they had been before, but to respond to needs far greater because of the pandemic and its global economic dislocations. A long-term continuing resolution would be a severe failure to address these needs. We strongly urge you to enact omnibus appropriations legislation including all twelve bills as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

DEBORAH WEINSTEIN,
Executive Director.

— NOVEMBER 10, 2021.

DEAR MAJORITY LEADER SCHUMER AND MINORITY LEADER MCCONNELL: On behalf of the millions of veterans our organizations represent, we write to express serious concerns about reports that the Senate is considering approving a full-year continuing resolution to fund the federal government for the remainder of fiscal year 2022, which would have significant negative consequences for veterans, their families, caregivers and survivors. Therefore, we are asking that you work together to ensure that veterans programs, benefits and medical services receive the full level of funding for fiscal year 2022 that was approved with strong bipartisan support (25 to 5) by the Senate Appropriations Committee in August.

As you know, Congress approved and the President signed a short-term continuing resolution (Public Law 117-43) on September 30th to fund the federal government through December 3, 2021, extending funding at the levels previously enacted in fiscal year 2021 appropriations legislation. Funding for Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) medical care and benefit payments for fiscal year 2022 was previously approved in December 2020 as advance appropriations in Division J (Military Construction and Veterans Affairs) of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021, Public Law 116-260. However, the advance appropriations process only works properly if funding levels are adjusted to address increased demand for benefits and services as part of the following year's regular appropriations process, as is necessary for fiscal year 2022. Further, if Congress passes a full-year continuing resolution, all other programs, services and benefits would remain funded at fiscal year 2021 levels, which would fall short of the anticipated needs.

For example, a full-year continuing resolution could result in an estimated \$7 billion shortfall in funding for mandatory compensation and pension benefits, in large part due to an increased number of benefit claims resulting from congressional approval of new diseases related to Agent Orange exposure for Vietnam veterans.

In addition, the time it takes to process these and other claims for benefits would be significantly increased without the \$300 million increase for the Veterans Benefits Administration approved by the Senate Appropriations Committee. Similarly, reductions from the Committee-approved levels for the Board of Veterans' Appeals and the National Cemetery Administration would negatively impact veterans and their survivors seeking their services and benefits.

Enacting a full-year continuing resolution would also negatively hamper veterans' abil-

ity to receive timely medical care absent the \$3.3 billion increase for Veterans Medical Community Care approved by the Senate Committee. VA's critical Medical and Prosthetic Research programs would be cut by \$67 million and funding to support VA's health care infrastructure would be cut \$450 million below the levels approved by the Committee if Congress passes a full-year continuing resolution.

As leaders of the Senate, we call on you to reject consideration of a full-year continuing resolution that would reduce veterans' funding below what has already been approved in an overwhelming bipartisan vote of the Senate Appropriations Committee. Instead, we ask that you use your influence to ensure that the Senate completes consideration of the fiscal year 2022 appropriations so that veterans, their families, caregivers and survivors have timely access to all the benefits, services and medical care they have earned.

Respectfully,

LAWRENCE W. MONTREUIL,
*National Legislative
Director, The Amer-
ican Legion.*

JOY J. LLEM,
*National Legislative
Director, DAV (Dis-
abled American Vet-
erans).*

TOM PORTER,
*Executive Vice Presi-
dent, Government
Affairs, Iraq and Af-
ghanistan Veterans
of America.*

HEATHER ANSLEY, ESQ.,
MSW,
*Associate Executive
Director of Govern-
ment Relations, Par-
alyzed Veterans of
America.*

PATRICK MURRAY,
*Director, National
Legislative Service,
Veterans of Foreign
Wars.*

DAN MERRY,
*Colonel, USAF (Ret),
Vice President for
Government Rela-
tions, Military Offi-
cers Association of
America.*

SHARON HODGE,
*Director for Policy and
Government Affairs,
Vietnam Veterans of
America.*

BRIAN DEMPSEY,
*Government Affairs
Director, Wounded
Warrior Project.*

Mr. LEAHY. I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. OSSOFF). Without objection, it is so ordered.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—H.R. 6119

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate resume legislative session and proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 6119, which was received from the House and is at the desk; that the only

amendment in order be Marshall-Lee No. 4868; that Senator LEE be recognized to speak for up to 10 minutes and that, following his remarks, the Senate vote on the Marshall amendment; that upon disposition of the Marshall amendment, the bill shall be considered read a third time and the Senate vote on passage of the bill, as amended, if amended, with 60 affirmative votes required for passage; that there be 6 minutes for debate equally divided in the usual form prior to each vote, all without further intervening action or debate.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I am pleased to announce that an agreement has been reached between Democrats and Republicans that will allow the Senate to take up and pass the continuing resolution to fund the government through February 18. With this agreement, there will be no government shutdown, and I appreciate the work of my colleagues from both sides of the aisle, including Leader McCONNELL, to reach this point. The good, bipartisan work that produced this agreement will give appropriators in both parties and in both Chambers time to reach a comprehensive agreement on appropriations by February 18 of next year.

I am glad that, in the end, cooler heads prevailed. The government will stay open. I thank the Members of this Chamber for walking us back from the brink of an avoidable, needless, and costly shutdown.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. LEE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

FURTHER EXTENDING GOVERNMENT FUNDING ACT

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume legislative session and proceed to the consideration of H.R. 6119, which the clerk will report.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 6119) making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2022, and for other purposes.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah.

AMENDMENT NO. 4868

Mr. LEE. Mr. President, 45 million Americans, 45 million hard-working moms and dads, neighbors, and friends are being threatened right now with

losing their jobs. They are being threatened not due to cyclical economic conditions, not because jobs aren't available, not because of some war or other calamity; their jobs are being threatened by their own government—a government that has chosen to tell them if they don't comply with a Presidential medical orthodoxy, they will be fired.

This is unfortunate. This is most unfortunate. It is most unfortunate that this power has been exercised this way. The President doesn't have that power. Congress hasn't given the President that power. Congress doesn't have that power to begin with. This is not a power that belongs in the Federal Government to begin with.

As a result of that, 45 million Americans are being threatened with their jobs. They are being forced to choose between an unwanted medical procedure and losing their job.

Look, I want to be very clear. I have been vaccinated. My family has been vaccinated. I believe the development of the vaccine is something of a modern medical miracle. I am grateful for the vaccine. I think the vaccine is helping Americans be safe from the effects of COVID. It is not the government's job. It is not within government's authority to tell people that they must be vaccinated, and if they don't get vaccinated, they will get fired.

It is wrong. It is immoral. You don't tell someone that if they don't do exactly what you want them to do, that they are going to lose their job. The American people overwhelmingly agree.

In fact, according to a recent Axios poll, only 14 percent of all Americans agree with the President of the United States that if someone declines to get the jab, they should lose their job.

Now, this is a huge percentage of the workforce in many States—most States, in fact. Somewhere between a quarter and a third of all workers are now being faced with the possibility of losing their job because of these vaccine mandates. This, at a time when Americans are struggling just to put food on the table, in part, because we have a government that is spending too much money it doesn't have.

It is churning up money, printing it, in effect, in a way that results in rampant inflation; in a way that makes limited paychecks go less far, less capable of buying bread to put on the table. And amidst all of this government-manufactured crisis, government is making it worse; threatening to not just make that paycheck go even less far than it already does because of government but to take it away altogether. That is not kind; that is not the neighborly way in which we like to do things; it is not moral; and it is not constitutional.

Look, it is tragic that this many Americans have to have their jobs threatened as a result of a Presidential temper tantrum. There is nothing about it that is OK. Deep down, we all know that it is not OK.

I will tell you, there is another thing that is not OK. It is not OK that those who want to take away those jobs, those who are just fine with the President exercising this authority fought tooth and nail to prevent the U.S. Senate from taking the vote that we are preparing to take tonight, a simple vote—a simple vote that simply allows us to weigh in and decide whether or not we are going to fund that part of government, that feature of our government that is going to enforce the vaccine mandate.

Those in this Chamber who shamefully were refusing over and over again to let us even cast a vote on that simple measure threatened to shut down all of government because they didn't want to have us have a chance, as the people's elected lawmakers, to decide whether or not we should proceed with vaccine mandate enforcement. They would rather shut down the government and make everything worse than they would stand accountable for what they are doing.

Fortunately, this part of the story at least has a happy ending. We are going to be able to vote on that tonight. We are going to be able to vote on whether or not we fund vaccine mandate enforcement at the Federal level.

This is wonderful. This is fantastic. It should not have resulted in days and days of shutdown threats and days and days of deflection, accusing other people of wanting to shut down the government when all we wanted to do was have a vote, to give a chance to the hard-working mom or dad, soldier, sailor, airman, or marine struggling to put food on the table. That is all we wanted. And all they wanted to do is use it as an excuse to deflect onto others that which they are doing.

We can do better than this. We must do better than this. The American people deserve better than this. That is why I am so glad and grateful that we will be casting this vote tonight.

But know this: This issue is not going away. I hope with everything in me that when we cast this vote tonight, that a majority of us will do the right thing and that we will vote the way that we know we should vote; that we will stand with those people who may lose their jobs. Thirty-one percent of the workers in my State—and in other States, it is higher. Thirty-nine percent of the workers in West Virginia stand to lose their jobs, 37 percent of the workers in Alabama, 33 percent of the workers in Georgia. In State after State, you see hard-working moms and dads being threatened.

This isn't right. It is not even an authority that the President has. It is not authority that the Congress has. We shouldn't be doing this. Deep down, we all know that is right. We also know that some of these problems result from the fact that when we fund the government, we have made significant mistakes as a result of the fact we have allowed so many spending decisions to be concentrated in one vote on one bill,

such that all of government tends to be funded or none of it gets funded.

Sometimes the only opportunity we have to weigh in on a particular matter of public policy, one affecting 45 million American workers in this instance—the only chance we have to do that is on a spending bill, and we don't even get that chance unless we agree we can vote on an amendment on that. That should never result in a shutdown threat.

When those threats are made, we should acknowledge who is making them. Never once has any one of us wanted to shut down the government. We wanted to give the American worker a chance for us to vote for them, a chance for us to stand with them.

I urge—I implore—my colleagues: Please join me in voting to protect the American worker. Don't take away the job of hard-working Americans. Don't fire people because they are not inclined to adhere to Presidential medical orthodoxy. Please support me in this amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kansas.

AMENDMENT NO. 4868

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. President, I call up my amendment No. 4868 and ask that it be reported by number.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the amendment by number.

The bill clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Kansas [Mr. MARSHALL] for himself and for Mr. LEE, proposes an amendment numbered 4868.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To prohibit the use of Federal funds for implementing or enforcing COVID-19 vaccine mandates)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ PROHIBITION ON FUNDING FOR COVID-19 VACCINE MANDATES.

None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available under this Act may be obligated or expended to—

(1) implement or enforce—

(A) section 1910.501 of title 29, Code of Federal Regulations (or a successor regulation);

(B) Executive Order 14042 of September 9, 2021 (86 Fed. Reg. 50985; relating to ensuring adequate COVID safety protocols for Federal contractors);

(C) Executive Order 14043 of September 9, 2021 (86 Fed. Reg. 50989; relating to requiring Coronavirus Disease 2019 vaccination for Federal employees);

(D) the interim final rule issued by the Department of Health and Human Services on November 5, 2021, entitled "Medicare and Medicaid Programs; Omnibus COVID-19 Health Care Staff Vaccination" (86 Fed. Reg. 61555); or

(E) the memorandum signed by the Secretary of Defense on August 24, 2021, for "Mandatory Coronavirus Disease 2019 Vaccination of Department of Defense Service Members"; or

(2) promulgate, implement, or enforce any rule, regulation, or other agency statement, that is substantially similar to a regulation, Executive Order, rule, or memorandum described in paragraph (1).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There will now be 6 minutes of debate equally divided prior to a vote on amendment No. 4868.

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. President, this amendment is simple. It prohibits moneys from this bill to be used to fund or enforce the White House's COVID vaccine mandates on the American people for the duration of the CR.

As a physician, I have always supported the vaccine, and I encourage Americans to talk to their doctor about getting vaccinated and about the booster. But whether to receive the vaccine or not is a personal choice. It should not be mandated via unconstitutional Executive actions that the administration acknowledged earlier this year they didn't have the authority to put in place.

No precedent exists in American history for punishing private employers who don't enforce government vaccine edicts. As we all know, multiple Federal courts have put a stop to the OSHA mandate, as well as the Federal contractor and CMS mandates.

What is more, thank goodness, the White House even delayed implementing their mandate for Federal workers until after the holidays. This is an opportunity to right a wrong—for each Member in this body to right a wrong. Let's get employers certainty and employees peace of mind that they will still have a job this new year.

Make no mistake, these vaccine mandates are not about public health or science. If they were, the White House would recognize the 92 percent of Americans—92 percent of Americans—who already built up immunity to this virus between vaccines and natural immunity.

Beside me is a photo of upset union workers in Topeka, KS. These are people who keep our electricity on and houses warm in the winter. These are hard-working Americans who put their lives on the line throughout the pandemic. Tonight, I am their voice. I am their voice and I am proud to be here to keep fighting for them, for their families, and their right to earn a living in this greatest country in the world.

Tonight, I ask my colleagues to join me in this fight and support our amendment and avoid an economic shutdown, avoid brownouts, further supply chain disruptions, labor shortages, higher inflation, and weakening our national security.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, COVID-19 has killed over 780,000 people in our country. This pandemic has a higher body count than any war we have ever fought in, and it is not over.

We should be doing everything we can to stop this virus. We should be using every tool to keep America safe. We all know the damage this virus can do to our communities and to our economy. That is why the Biden administration has taken steps to urge employers to make sure their employees are fully vaccinated or test negative for COVID-19 before they come to the

workplace. That is a move that is widely popular with the American people. No one wants to go to work and be worried they might come home to their family with a deadly virus.

Even businesses support this step. The Chamber of Commerce is urging businesses to comply with the administration's emergency temporary standard. Perhaps, more importantly, it is a move that will save lives. We have already seen these requirements have a huge impact. In fact, many businesses with vaccine requirements have seen vaccine rates rise well above 90 percent. OSHA estimates that the Federal standard—which Republicans are fighting to undermine—will help protect 84 million workers, prevent thousands of deaths and over 200,000 hospitalizations from COVID-19.

I do not understand why—after all families have been through, after all we have lost and all the hard work we have done to rebuild—would anyone want to throw that in jeopardy and throw away one of the strongest tools we have to get people vaccinated, keep them safe, and end this pandemic once and for all. It is senseless. It is reckless. I urge my colleagues to vote against it.

I yield the rest of my time to the Senator from Virginia.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Virginia.

Mr. Kaine. Mr. President, I rise to support the position of my colleague.

When you are unwilling to describe something accurately, it betrays a weakness in your position. I heard my colleagues complain about the vaccine mandate. It is not a vaccine mandate. It is a vaccine or testing mandate. If you don't want to get a test—if you don't want to get a vaccine, don't get a vaccine. Get a test so you can go to work each week without infecting your colleagues with the deadly disease.

What my colleagues are asking is that people be protected so that they can go to work with a deadly disease, infect coworkers, and still get a paycheck—and still get a paycheck. If you don't want to get a vaccine, get a test. If you are unwilling to protect your coworkers, don't demand a paycheck.

I urge my colleagues to oppose this amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah.

Mr. LEE. If you don't want to get the virus, get the vaccine.

The answer to someone not agreeing to your medical advice is not to fire them. It sure as heck isn't to have the President of the United States fine every employer in America that doesn't want to do this, whether they have religious objections or otherwise. This is wrong. We know it is wrong. We can stop this right now.

Please join me in opposing and taking down and refusing to fund for the duration of this continuing resolution that part of government charged with enforcing this immoral, indefensible, unconstitutional, and illegal mandate.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT NO. 4868

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the amendment.

Mr. MARSHALL. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. HAGERTY) and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE).

The result was announced—yeas 48, nays 50, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 476 Leg.]

YEAS—48

Barrasso	Fischer	Paul
Blackburn	Graham	Portman
Blunt	Grassley	Risch
Boozman	Hawley	Romney
Braun	Hoeven	Rounds
Burr	Hyde-Smith	Rubio
Capito	Inhofe	Sasse
Cassidy	Johnson	Scott (FL)
Collins	Kennedy	Scott (SC)
Cornyn	Lankford	Shelby
Cotton	Lee	Sullivan
Cramer	Lummis	Tillis
Crapo	Marshall	Toomey
Cruz	McConnell	Tuberville
Daines	Moran	Wicker
Ernst	Murkowski	Young

NAYS—50

Baldwin	Hickenlooper	Reed
Bennet	Hirono	Rosen
Blumenthal	Kaine	Sanders
Booker	Kelly	Schatz
Brown	King	Schumer
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Cardin	Leahy	Sinema
Carper	Lujan	Smith
Casey	Manchin	Stabenow
Coons	Markey	Tester
Cortez Masto	Menendez	Van Hollen
Duckworth	Merkley	Warner
Durbin	Murphy	Warnock
Feinstein	Murray	Warren
Gillibrand	Ossoff	Whitehouse
Hassan	Padilla	Wyden
Heinrich	Peters	

NOT VOTING—2

Hagerty Thune

The amendment (No. 4868) was rejected.

(Mrs. MURRAY assumed the Chair.)

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. KING). The clerk will read the bill by title for the third time.

The bill was ordered to a third reading and was read the third time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There will be 6 minutes of debate equally divided prior to a vote on the passage of the bill.

The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I will be very brief.

I will note that, as chairman of the Appropriations Committee, this bill was negotiated on a bipartisan-bicameral basis to keep the government open and operating until February 18.

I urge every Member to vote "aye." We have to pass it tonight, but I warn and remind every Senator: It is not a substitute for doing our work. We have to use the next 2 months to negotiate and enact full-year appropriations

bills. I hope my Republican friends will come to the table to negotiate topline. The Democrats have made a fair offer, a strong offer, and we need a response.

So I thank Vice Chairman SHELBY for his cooperation and hard work on this bill. I look forward to working with him, as I did earlier today, and will continue to until we get an agreement on a topline and all 12 appropriations bills by February 18.

Let's get to work and show the country the Senate can do its work.

I yield the floor.

VOTE ON H.R. 6119

Mrs. GILLIBRAND. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that all time be yielded back.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

With all time having been yielded back, the question is, Shall the bill pass?

Mrs. GILLIBRAND. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The yeas and nays have been requested.

Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. HAGERTY), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE), and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE).

The result was announced—yeas 69, nays 28, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 477 Leg.]

YEAS—69

Baldwin	Heinrich	Portman
Bennet	Hickenlooper	Reed
Blumenthal	Hirono	Rosen
Blunt	Hyde-Smith	Rounds
Booker	Kaine	Rubio
Brown	Kelly	Sanders
Burr	Kennedy	Schatz
Cantwell	King	Schumer
Capito	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Cardin	Leahy	Shelby
Carper	Lujan	Sinema
Casey	Manchin	Smith
Cassidy	Markey	Stabenow
Collins	McConnell	Tester
Coons	Menendez	Tillis
Cornyn	Merkley	Van Hollen
Cortez Masto	Moran	Warner
Duckworth	Murkowski	Warnock
Durbin	Murphy	Warren
Feinstein	Murray	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Ossoff	Wicker
Hassan	Padilla	Wyden
Heinrich	Peters	Young

NAYS—28

Barrasso	Fischer	Risch
Blackburn	Grassley	Romney
Boozman	Hawley	Sasse
Braun	Hoeven	Scott (FL)
Cotton	Johnson	Scott (SC)
Cramer	Lankford	Sullivan
Crapo	Lee	Toomey
Cruz	Lummis	Tuberville
Daines	Marshall	
Ernst	Paul	

NOT VOTING—3

Hagerty Inhofe Thune

The bill (H.R. 6119) was passed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I am happy to let the American people know the government remains open.

(Applause.)

Mr. SCHUMER. Thank you.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Executive Calendar No. 567.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Jessica Rosenworcel, of Connecticut, to be a Member of the Federal Communications Commission for a term of five years from July 1, 2020. (Reappointment)

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 567, Jessica Rosenworcel, of Connecticut, to be a Member of the Federal Communications Commission for a term of five years from July 1, 2020. (Reappointment)

Charles E. Schumer, Richard Blumenthal, Richard J. Durbin, Angus S. King, Jr., Chris Van Hollen, Elizabeth Warren, Debbie Stabenow, Gary C. Peters, Tammy Baldwin, Maria Cantwell, Mark R. Warner, Benjamin L. Cardin, Tammy Duckworth, Tina Smith, Margaret Wood Hassan, Tim Kaine, Patty Murray.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Executive Calendar No. 480.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Deirdre Hamilton, of the District of Columbia, to be a Member of the National Mediation Board for a term expiring July 1, 2022.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 480, Deirdre Hamilton, of the District of Columbia, to be a Member of the National Mediation Board for a term expiring July 1, 2022.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard Blumenthal, Richard J. Durbin, Angus S. King, Jr., Chris Van Hollen, Elizabeth Warren, Debbie Stabenow, Gary C. Peters, Tammy Baldwin, Tina Smith, Mark R. Warner, Benjamin L. Cardin, Tammy Duckworth, Margaret Wood Hassan, Tim Kaine, Patrick J. Leahy, Jeff Merkley, Sheldon Whitehouse, Jack Reed.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Executive Calendar No. 513.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Chris Magnus, of Arizona, to be Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Department of Homeland Security.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 513, Chris Magnus, of Arizona, to be Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Department of Homeland Security.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard Blumenthal, Richard J. Durbin, Angus S. King, Jr., Chris Van Hollen, Elizabeth Warren, Debbie Stabenow, Gary C. Peters, Tammy Baldwin, Maria Cantwell, Mark R. Warner, Benjamin L. Cardin, Tammy Duckworth, Tina Smith, Margaret Wood Hassan, Tim Kaine, Patty Murray.

Mr. SCHUMER. Finally, I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory

quorum calls for the cloture motions filed today, December 2, be waived and that the cloture motions ripen at 5:30 p.m., Monday, December 6.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session to consider the following nominations en bloc: Calendar Nos. 543 and 544; that the Senate vote on the nominations en bloc without intervening action or debate; that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate; that any statements related to the nominations be printed in the RECORD; and that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action, and the Senate resume legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nominations of Larry D. Turner, of North Carolina, to be Inspector General, Department of Labor; and Sandra D. Bruce, of Delaware, to be Inspector General, Department of Education, en bloc?

The nominations were confirmed.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will resume legislative session.

MORNING BUSINESS

NOTICE OF TIE VOTES UNDER S. RES. 27

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to print the following letters in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

U.S. SENATE,
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY,
Washington, DC.

To the Secretary of the Senate:

PN999, the nomination of Charlotte N. Sweeney, of Colorado, to be United States District Judge for the District of Colorado, having been referred to the Committee on the Judiciary, the Committee, with a quorum present, has voted on the nomination as follows—

(1) on the question of reporting the nomination favorably with the recommendation that the nomination be confirmed, 11 ayes to 11 noes; and

In accordance with section 3, paragraph (1)(A) of S. Res. 27 of the 117th Congress, I hereby give notice that the Committee has not reported the nomination because of a tie vote, and ask that this notice be printed in the Record pursuant to the resolution.

U.S. SENATE,
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY,
Washington, DC.

To the Secretary of the Senate:

PN1170, the nomination of Hernan D. Vera, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Central District of California, having been referred to the Committee on the Judiciary, the Committee, with a quorum present, has voted on the nomination as follows—

(1) on the question of reporting the nomination favorably with the recommendation that the nomination be confirmed, 11 ayes to 11 noes; and

In accordance with section 3, paragraph (1)(A) of S. Res. 27 of the 117th Congress, I hereby give notice that the Committee has not reported the nomination because of a tie vote, and ask that this notice be printed in the Record pursuant to the resolution.

U.S. SENATE,
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY,
Washington, DC.

To the Secretary of the Senate:

PN1169, the nomination of Holly A. Thomas, of California, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit, having been referred to the Committee on the Judiciary, the Committee, with a quorum present, has voted on the nomination as follows—

(1) on the question of reporting the nomination favorably with the recommendation that the nomination be confirmed, 11 ayes to 11 noes; and

In accordance with section 3, paragraph (1)(A) of S. Res. 27 of the 117th Congress, I hereby give notice that the Committee has not reported the nomination because of a tie vote, and ask that this notice be printed in the Record pursuant to the resolution.

TRIBUTE TO LIEUTENANT COLONEL RENETTE HILTON

Ms. SINEMA. Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate and thank Air Force Lt. Col. Renette Hilton. Renette has been serving as a Department of Defense fellow in my office this year, and she has been an asset to the people of Arizona and the U.S. Congress.

Arizona is home to key parts of the U.S. Air Force working every day to keep our Nation safe and secure. Luke Air Force Base is home to the world's largest fighter wing, the 56th Fighter Wing, where they train on and operate the F-35 Lightning. The F-35 is America's preeminent fifth-generation fighter. Luke Air Force Base also trains pilots for our partner nations, strengthening our relationship with and the security of our allies. Davis-Monthan Air Force Base is similarly critical to our national security. Davis-Monthan has a diverse mission that includes search and rescue, Air Force Southern Command, electronic warfare, and the Aerospace Maintenance and Regeneration Group. Arizona also has one of the most capable Air National Guard units in the country. They organize the busiest aerial refueling operation and continue to innovate to stay on the cutting edge of Air Force capabilities.

In the year she has worked in my office, Renette has become an essential member of the team and a valued connection to the Air Force. She has worked with my policy team to host over 30 meetings with Arizona constituents on a range of topics related to the Nation's defense. She has assisted in making informed recommendations on confirmation votes, cosponsorships, and hearing preparations. She has helped us draft thoughtful and influential policy that I know will help the servicemembers and families of Arizona. Renette has been a steadfast protector of Arizona military missions and communities.

Moreover, Renette went above and beyond to adapt to dynamic staffing in my office. She led our defense team for several months, including coordinating with a legislative correspondent, policy aide, and our defense outreach team across three geographically dislocated offices. In this role, she planned, organized, and directed a staff delegation to multiple bases throughout Arizona and engaged with senior leaders in the military, as well as business, academic, and community stakeholders. She also successfully supported my requests to the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2022.

I am incredibly proud of the work accomplished by Lieutenant Colonel Hilton throughout this challenging year. She has set an outstanding example for others, and my team and I will miss her.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO BEN COOPER

• **Mr. BLUMENTHAL.** Mr. President, today I rise to recognize Mr. Ben Cooper, a lifelong resident of West Hartford, CT, and outstanding World War II veteran who turns 100 on December 24, 2021.

Mr. Cooper was a freshman at The George Washington University when the United States entered World War II. Eager to support his country, he went to work at Colt's Firearms in Connecticut, where he tested machine guns until he was drafted in September 1942. Mr. Cooper was sent for training at Camp Barkeley. While on furlough, he met his future wife, Dorothy, and the two married when he received news he was going to be sent overseas. Mr. and Mrs. Cooper had four children and celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary shortly before Dorothy passed.

After boarding a liberty ship, Mr. Cooper was assigned as a combat medic to the U.S. Army's 45th Infantry Division, also known as the Thunderbird Division, which was largely comprised of Native American soldiers. They saw combat in Italy, France, and Germany. While in Europe, Mr. Cooper was instructed by his friends to keep his dog tags in his pocket rather than around his neck. They were labeled with an "H" for Hebrew, indicating his Jewish

faith, which could have led to harm if he were captured by the Germans. In April 1945, the 45th Infantry Division received orders to secure a camp. As Mr. Cooper explains, no one in the division knew anything about the camp other than their instructions to not allow anyone to enter or exit.

When Mr. Cooper and his division arrived at Dachau in southern Germany, they witnessed scenes he describes as "virtually unspeakable." He met the survivors who were able to walk up to him and was traumatized by what he encountered. On April 29, 1945, the 30,000 prisoners were liberated by American troops, including Mr. Cooper and the 45th Infantry Division. In the following days, the division helped capture Munich.

Though the division was sent to France with the expectation of fighting the Japanese, they were instead discharged when the war ended before they made it to the Pacific. Mr. Cooper returned home to his family and did not speak about Dachau to anyone for 45 years.

In 1990, Mr. Cooper shared his story for the first time, speaking to a group of students. From there, he started to recount his experiences wherever it could be helpful. For over three decades, Mr. Cooper has spoken to schools, colleges, civic groups, and archival projects, repeating his eyewitness account to make sure the realities of the Holocaust are not forgotten.

His speaking engagements have led to a number of remarkable events. At the annual Holocaust commemoration at the Connecticut State Capitol in 1996, he met a man who revealed he and his wife were liberated from Dachau by Mr. Cooper and his division. They recognized the Thunderbird logo on his jacket. The two families became friends, and in 2006, their son performed open heart surgery for Mr. Cooper, who mused, "what goes around comes around."

In 2017, Mr. Cooper was inducted into the Connecticut Veterans Hall of Fame, and in 2019, he received the *Légion d'honneur*, France's highest military merit. That same year, I had the privilege of presenting Mr. Cooper with a certificate of special recognition at the Connecticut Veterans Memorial, where he also received the Connecticut Wartime Service Medal from the Connecticut Department of Veterans Affairs.

Mr. Cooper's lifetime of service and advocacy serves as a model for all of us. On his business cards is the motto that guides him: "No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted."

Mr. Cooper's courage and compassion will be an enduring legacy. I applaud his many accomplishments and hope my colleagues will join me in congratulating Mr. Ben Cooper on this milestone of his 100th birthday.●

TRIBUTE TO AVERY HERRMANN

• **Mr. MARSHALL.** Mr. President, I rise today to honor and recognize a

young Kansan who has truly gone above and beyond to help others, Ms. Avery Herrmann from Sabetha, KS.

Avery has been making jewelry since 2017 to help support the Kansas Honor Flight. She first began designing jewelry after developing staphylococcal in her right eye. Doctors had told her and her mother, Mary, that Avery should pick up a hobby to help keep her motor functions developing properly. Mary had made jewelry herself as a child, so she showed Avery the tools of the trade, and she hasn't stopped since.

For a while, Avery had kept up with jewelry making for personal use, but the death of her grandfather Robert in 2016 showed her what she could do to make a difference with her skills. Robert was a Korean war veteran who had previously gone on an Honor Flight himself, which was one of his most memorable experiences. After his passing, Avery started Abundant Love jewelry as a tribute to her grandfather and a way to support veterans in her community. With this new business, she began selling earrings online and at various fundraising events. To date, Avery has raised almost \$7,000 through Abundant Love.

Stories like Avery's are what truly show the best of Kansas. I have met with countless veterans on Honor Flights, and each has their own unique and incredible experience like Robert. Avery already is selfless in making and selling her earrings to benefit Honor Flight, but what truly makes this project extraordinary is that she doesn't take a penny for herself. Every single dollar made from Abundant Love goes directly to Honor Flight's benefit. Whether she knows it or not, those veterans appreciate what she does for them, and I join them in showing my appreciation for Avery. I now ask my colleagues to join in me in recognizing Avery for her outstanding service for our Nation's heroes.●

TRIBUTE TO REVEREND ALVIN C. HATHAWAY

• **Mr. VAN HOLLEN.** Mr. President, I rise to pay tribute to a faith leader and community activist from my home State of Maryland who has recently stepped down from his post as senior pastor at Union Baptist Church: Reverend Alvin C. Hathaway. I would like to honor his service to the people of Maryland and enter the details of his journey into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD so that current and future generations may learn from and study his inspiring career.

The story of Reverend Hathaway's life is deeply bound to the story of Union Baptist Church. Alvin Hathaway grew up on Druid Hill Avenue in West Baltimore in a family that believed deeply in combining education and service—four doors down from the church itself—and he came of age in a neighborhood shaped and nurtured by faith. That community had cradled other great leaders too—leaders who,

like Reverend Hathaway, bent the arc of history toward justice. Thurgood Marshall had lived along the same avenue where he grew up. The late great Maryland Congressman Elijah Cummings was one of his high school classmates. And at an early age, Reverend Hathaway was mentored by another legendary son of Baltimore City and civil rights champion, Reverend Vernon Dobson, with whom he helped organize and found BUILD, Baltimoreans United in Leadership Development. That organization has been serving the people of Baltimore City for over 40 years, helping to improve affordable housing, create jobs, revitalize neighborhoods, and so much more.

Through BUILD, Reverend Hathaway left his mark on Baltimore City early in his career, and his legacy of good works will continue to endure through that powerful organization. But he has never been one to rest on his laurels, and Reverend Hathaway continued throughout his life to find new ways of serving at the intersection of faith and social justice—and of giving back to the church and the community that raised him. After earning a B.A. from the McKendree University School of Religion and an M.A. from Saint Mary's Seminary and University in Baltimore, Reverend Hathaway pursued a Ph.D. at the United Theological Seminary in Ohio, and he chose the history of Union Baptist Church as the focus of his academic study. Through his deep research into the narrative and legacy of that church, Reverend Hathaway became a steward of the church's culture, traditions, and values. I submit that no one knows Union Baptist Church better than Reverend Hathaway.

He then returned to Baltimore City, becoming senior pastor of Union Baptist in 2007, and he channeled his efforts in that role toward renovating the very traditions of the church that he had studied and lived for so many years. Reverend Hathaway marshalled the full force of his religious wisdom and oratorical gift to guide the West Baltimore community forward, through both good times and bad times. His swelling sermons moved a generation—and grew the faith.

But Reverend Hathaway learned early that the duties of a faith leader don't end at the bricks of the church walls. He took the values of his religious devotion and aimed them at the ongoing fight to realize the full promise of civil rights and equal opportunity. His efforts have spanned issues of health equity, civil rights, wages, and employment, but perhaps his greatest fight of them all has been waged through his dedication to expanding access to education. As senior pastor, Reverend Hathaway was deeply committed to bolstering the church's Head Start Program so more children from the surrounding area could receive high-quality early education. I have had the privilege of visiting the Union Baptist Head Start with him to

see, firsthand, the impact his work has had on the community. Reverend Hathaway's legacy can be seen in the wide smiles of the children who benefit from that initiative—and who benefit from his efforts to grow and strengthen that vital program.

While senior pastor at Union Baptist, Reverend Hathaway also served as a longtime leader of Promise Heights, an organization committed to improving outcomes in West Baltimore's Community Schools. He has helped guide the course of higher education through his role on the board of the University of Maryland Medical Center. He was an early and outspoken advocate for bridging the digital divide and narrowing the homework gap so more students could access the internet. And even now, after his retirement, he is leading the fight to transform the now vacant lot of P.S. 103 in West Baltimore into the Justice Thurgood Marshall Center, which will focus on programs supporting education, justice, and ethics.

He has done all this, and more, over the course of an extraordinary career marked by a commitment to his faith, a dedication to the people of Baltimore City, and a belief in the power of community. Though he has retired as the leader of Union Baptist Church, I know that he will carry on in the work that has defined his tenure as senior pastor—and defined his entire life. I am proud to call him a full partner in the work of building a more perfect union, and I will continue standing shoulder-to-shoulder with him in our shared endeavor to invest in the success of all.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Swann, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

In executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 10:57 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 2685. An act to direct the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information to submit to Congress a report examining the cybersecurity of mobile service networks, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4045. An act to direct the Federal Communications Commission to establish a task force to be known as the "6G Task Force", and for other purposes.

H.R. 4055. An act to establish a cybersecurity literacy campaign, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4352. An act to amend the Act of June 18, 1934, to reaffirm the authority of the Secretary of the Interior to take land into trust for Indian Tribes, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5720. An act to amend the Ethics in Government Act of 1978 to provide for a periodic transaction reporting requirement for Federal judicial officers and the online publication of financial disclosure reports of Federal judicial officers, and for other purposes.

At 5:54 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 6119. An act making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2022, and for other purposes.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 2685. An act to direct the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information to submit to Congress a report examining the cybersecurity of mobile service networks, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

H.R. 4045. An act to direct the Federal Communications Commission to establish a task force to be known as the "6G Task Force", and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

H.R. 4055. An act to establish a cybersecurity literacy campaign, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

H.R. 4352. An act to amend the Act of June 18, 1934, to reaffirm the authority of the Secretary of the Interior to take land into trust for Indian Tribes, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

S. 3299. A bill to prohibit the Department of Defense from discharging or withholding pay or benefits from members of the National Guard based on COVID-19 vaccination status.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-2692. A communication from the Legal Tech, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; Hampton Roads Bridge-Tunnel Expansion Project, Hampton/Norfolk, VA" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2020-0117)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 17, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2693. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal

Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Sikorsky Aircraft Corporation Helicopters; Amendment 39-21735" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2021-0106)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 17, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2694. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Pacific Aerospace Limited Airplanes; Amendment 39-21758" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2021-0576)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 17, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2695. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; AERO Sp.zoo. Airplanes; Amendment 39-21732" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2021-0782)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 17, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2696. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; MHI RJ Aviation ULC (Type Certificate Previously Held by Bombardier, Inc.); Amendment 39-21730" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2021-0309)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 17, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2697. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; ATR-GIE Avions de Transport Regional Airplanes; Amendment 39-21731" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2021-0548)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 17, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2698. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Airbus SAS Airplanes; Amendment 39-21736" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2021-0789)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 17, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2699. A communication from the Legal Tech, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; Columbia River Outfall Project, Columbia River, Vancouver, WA" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2021-0201)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 17, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2700. A communication from the Legal Tech, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zones; Corpus Christi Ship Channel, Corpus Christi, TX" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2021-0760)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 17, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2701. A communication from the Yeoman Petty Officer First Class, U.S. Coast

Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; Key West Pad-dle Classic, Key West, FL" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2021-0757)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 17, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2702. A communication from the Legal Tech, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; Lake Erie, Lorain, Ohio" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2021-0668)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 17, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2703. A communication from the Legal Tech, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; Explosives arc at Military Ocean Terminal Concord, Suisun Bay, Concord, CA" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2021-0732)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 17, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2704. A communication from the Legal Yeoman, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; Anacostia River, Washington, D.C." ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2021-0710)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 17, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2705. A communication from the Legal Yeoman, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Special Local Regulation; Chesapeake Bay, Between Sandy Point and Kent Island, MD" ((RIN1625-AA08) (Docket No. USCG-2021-0505)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 17, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2706. A communication from the Legal Yeoman, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zones; Fireworks Displays, Air Shows and Swim Events in Captain of the Port Long Island Sound Zone" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2021-0135)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 17, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2707. A communication from the Legal Yeoman, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zones; Recurring Marine Events and Fireworks Displays within the Fifth Coast Guard District" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2021-0138)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 17, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2708. A communication from the Legal Tech, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Draw-bridge Operation Regulation; Milwaukee, Menomonee, and Kinnickinnic Rivers and Burnham Canals, Milwaukee, WI" ((RIN1625-AA09) (Docket No. USCG-2019-0824)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 17, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2709. A communication from the Legal Tech, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; Hydroplane and Raceboat Museum Test Area, Lake Washington, WA" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2021-0798)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 17, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2021-0798)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 17, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2710. A communication from the Legal Yeoman, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Draw-bridge Operation Regulation; Rainy River, Rainy Lake and their tributaries, Rainier, MN" ((RIN1625-AA09) (Docket No. USCG-2020-0033)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 17, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2711. A communication from the Legal Tech, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; Potomac River, Between Charles County, MD and King George County, VA" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2021-0745)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 17, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2712. A communication from the Legal Yeoman, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; Potomac River, Prince William County, VA" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2021-0497)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 17, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2713. A communication from the Legal Yeoman, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Special Local Regulation; Sacramento Ironman Triathlon; American River and Sacramento River, Sacramento, CA" ((RIN1625-AA08) (Docket No. USCG-2021-0697)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 17, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2714. A communication from the Legal Yeoman, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Draw-bridge Operation Regulation; New River, Fort Lauderdale, FL" ((RIN1625-AA09) (Docket No. USCG-2019-0955)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 17, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2715. A communication from the Legal Yeoman, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Special Local Regulation; Oceanside Harbor, Oceanside, CA" ((RIN1625-AA08) (Docket No. USCG-2021-0749)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 17, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2716. A communication from the Legal Yeoman, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; San Diego Bay, San Diego, CA" ((RIN1625-AA08) (Docket No. USCG-2021-0769)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 17, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2717. A communication from the Legal Tech, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Special Local Regulations; Perrysburg Regatta, Maumee River, Toledo, OH" ((RIN1625-AA08) (Docket No. USCG-2021-0761)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 17, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2718. A communication from the Legal Tech, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; Oaks Park Halloween Fireworks Display, Willamette River, Portland, OR" (RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2021-0789)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 17, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. SCHATZ, from the Committee on Indian Affairs, without amendment:

S. 1402. A bill to amend the Native American Languages Act to ensure the survival and continuing vitality of Native American languages, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 117-45).

By Mr. SCHATZ, from the Committee on Indian Affairs, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 989. A bill to establish a Native American language resource center in furtherance of the policy set forth in the Native American Languages Act (Rept. No. 117-46).

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. BROWN for the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

*Arun Venkataraman, of the District of Columbia, to be Assistant Secretary of Commerce and Director General of the United States and Foreign Commercial Service.

Alanna McCargo, of Virginia, to be President, Government National Mortgage Association.

*Elizabeth de Leon Bhargava, of New York, to be an Assistant Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

By Mrs. MURRAY for the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

*James D. Rodriguez, of Texas, to be Assistant Secretary of Labor for Veterans' Employment and Training.

*Lisa M. Gomez, of New Jersey, to be an Assistant Secretary of Labor.

*Susan Harthill, of Maryland, to be a Member of the Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission for a term expiring April 27, 2027.

*Maria Rosario Jackson, of the District of Columbia, to be Chairperson of the National Endowment for the Arts for a term of four years.

*Shelly C. Lowe, of Arizona, to be Chairperson of the National Endowment for the Humanities for a term of four years.

By Mr. DURBIN for the Committee on the Judiciary.

Gabriel P. Sanchez, of California, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit.

Mary Katherine Dimke, of Washington, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Washington.

Maame Ewusi-Mensah Frimpong, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Central District of California.

Jennifer L. Thurston, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of California.

Samantha D. Elliott, of New Hampshire, to be United States District Judge for the District of New Hampshire.

Linda Lopez, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of California.

Katherine Marie Menendez, of Minnesota, to be United States District Judge for the District of Minnesota.

Jinsook Ohta, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of California.

David Herrera Urias, of New Mexico, to be United States District Judge for the District of New Mexico.

Gregory K. Harris, of Illinois, to be United States Attorney for the Central District of Illinois for the term of four years.

Philip R. Sellinger, of New Jersey, to be United States Attorney for the District of New Jersey for the term of four years.

Brandon B. Brown, of Louisiana, to be United States Attorney for the Western District of Louisiana for the term of four years.

Ronald C. Gathe, Jr., of Louisiana, to be United States Attorney for the Middle District of Louisiana for the term of four years.

*Nomination was reported with recommendation that it be confirmed subject to the nominee's commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.

(Nominations without an asterisk were reported with the recommendation that they be confirmed.)

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. TILLIS (for himself, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. COTTON, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. RISCH, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. MORAN, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. HAWLEY, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. DAINES, Ms. ERNST, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. LEE, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. SHELBY, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. WICKER, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. THUNE, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Mr. YOUNG, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. ROMNEY, Mr. BURR, Mr. PAUL, and Mr. GRASSLEY):

S. 3300. A bill to prohibit the payment of certain legal settlements to individuals who unlawfully entered the United States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. RUBIO (for himself and Mr. HASSAN):

S. 3301. A bill to prohibit discrimination on the basis of mental or physical disability in cases of organ transplants; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. CASSIDY (for himself, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. GRAHAM, and Mr. BRAUN):

S. 3302. A bill to amend the Individuals with Disabilities Act to improve provisions relating to dyslexia, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. RUBIO (for himself, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, and Mr. PADILLA):

S. 3303. A bill to extend the authority of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration to enter into leases of non-excess property of the Administration; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. KENNEDY (for himself and Mr. WARNOCK):

S. 3304. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the ability of veterans to electronically submit complaints about the delivery of health care services by the Department of Veterans Affairs; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. CRUZ (for himself, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. LEE, and Mr. BARRASSO):

S. 3305. A bill to repeal the amendment made to the Superfund excise taxes by the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. RUBIO:

S. 3306. A bill to prohibit the purchase of certain telecommunications or aerospace goods or service from entities affiliated with the People's Republic of China or the Russian Federation and to require reporting relating to investment by foreign persons in the aerospace industry in the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. BLUNT (for himself and Mr. HAWLEY):

S. 3307. A bill to modify the boundary of the Wilson's Creek National Battlefield in the State of Missouri, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. KELLY (for himself and Ms. SINEMA):

S. 3308. A bill to authorize the Colorado River Indian Tribes to enter into lease or exchange agreements and storage agreements relating to water of the Colorado River allocated to the Colorado River Indian Tribes, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

By Mr. PETERS (for himself and Mr. SCOTT of Florida):

S. 3309. A bill to require SelectUSA to coordinate with State-level economic development organizations to increase foreign direct investment in semiconductor-related manufacturing and production; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. BROWN:

S. 3310. A bill to direct the Secretary of Defense to develop a plan to establish the Minority Institute for Defense Research, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. MORAN (for himself, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. THUNE, Mr. LEE, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. JOHNSON, and Mr. CRUZ):

S. 3311. A bill to amend the Federal Trade Commission Act to establish procedures for the treatment of votes by departed Commissioners; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. HAWLEY (for himself, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Mr. BRAUN, and Mrs. HYDE-SMITH):

S. 3312. A bill to analyze the impacts of establishing U.S. Customs and Border Protection Preclearance facilities in Taiwan and in other Indo-Pacific countries; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. CASSIDY (for himself and Mrs. SHAHEEN):

S. Res. 465. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that the United States should prioritize within the Government and emphasize with allies the need to provide continued support to, and maintain legal pathways for the emigration out of Afghanistan of, individuals who do not wish to be governed by the Taliban; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. LUJÁN (for himself, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. MARKEY, and Mr. MERKLEY):

S. Res. 466. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate in support of the International Atomic Energy Agency's (IAEA) nuclear security role; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself, Mr. RUBIO, Ms. WARREN, Mr. MARKEY, and Mr. SCOTT of Florida):

S. Res. 467. A resolution recognizing the contributions made by the 305-meter radio telescope at the Arecibo Observatory; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 176

At the request of Ms. ROSEN, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 176, a bill to require a longitudinal study on the impact of COVID-19.

S. 212

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 212, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a refundable tax credit against income tax for the purchase of qualified access technology for the blind.

S. 697

At the request of Ms. ROSEN, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KELLY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 697, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint commemorative coins in recognition of the Bicentennial of Harriet Tubman's birth.

S. 864

At the request of Mr. KAINE, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 864, a bill to extend Federal Pell Grant eligibility of certain short-term programs.

S. 1136

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KELLY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1136, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to reform the low-income housing credit, and for other purposes.

S. 1300

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1300, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and the Small Business Act to expand the availability of employee stock ownership plans in S corporations, and for other purposes.

S. 1488

At the request of Ms. DUCKWORTH, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1488, a bill to amend title 37, United States Code, to establish a basic needs allowance for low-income regular members of the Armed Forces.

S. 1568

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the names of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) and the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) were added as cosponsors of S. 1568, a bill to amend

title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide a waiver of the cap on annual payments for nursing and allied health education payments.

S. 1574

At the request of Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1574, a bill to codify a statutory definition for long-term care pharmacies.

S. 1621

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. WARNOCK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1621, a bill to reauthorize and limit the pre-disaster mitigation program of the Small Business Administration, and for other purposes.

S. 1813

At the request of Mr. COONS, the names of the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER) and the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) were added as cosponsors of S. 1813, a bill to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to support research on, and expanded access to, investigational drugs for amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, and for other purposes.

S. 1848

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1848, a bill to prohibit discrimination on the basis of religion, sex (including sexual orientation and gender identity), and marital status in the administration and provision of child welfare services, to improve safety, well-being, and permanency for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer or questioning foster youth, and for other purposes.

S. 1856

At the request of Mr. MANCHIN, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1856, a bill to enhance the security operations of the Transportation Security Administration and stability of the transportation security workforce by applying the personnel system under title 5, United States Code, to employees of the Transportation Security Administration, and for other purposes.

S. 1964

At the request of Mr. BENNET, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1964, a bill to amend the Omnibus Parks and Public Lands Management Act of 1996 to provide for the establishment of a Ski Area Fee Retention Account, and for other purposes.

S. 2342

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the names of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2342, a bill to amend title 9 of the United States Code with respect to arbitration of disputes involving sexual assault and sexual harassment.

S. 2720

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Connecticut

(Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2720, a bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a national clinical pathway for prostate cancer, and for other purposes.

S. 2821

At the request of Ms. DUCKWORTH, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2821, a bill to establish eligibility requirements for education support professionals under the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993, and for other purposes.

S. 2981

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2981, a bill to amend the National Housing Act to establish a mortgage insurance program for first responders, and for other purposes.

S. 3138

At the request of Mr. MARSHALL, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Ms. ERNST) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3138, a bill to amend the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act to exempt covered farm vehicles from certain requirements, and for other purposes.

S. 3157

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. HICKENLOOPER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3157, a bill to require the Secretary of Labor to conduct a study of the factors affecting employment opportunities for immigrants and refugees with professional credentials obtained in foreign countries.

S. 3193

At the request of Mr. DAINES, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3193, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to expand the scope of practitioners eligible for payment for telehealth services under the Medicare program, and for other purposes.

S. 3212

At the request of Mr. PADILLA, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3212, a bill to provide benefits for non-citizen members of the Armed Forces, and for other purposes.

S.J. RES. 29

At the request of Mr. BRAUN, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 29, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Department of Labor relating to "COVID-19 Vaccination and Testing; Emergency Temporary Standard".

S. RES. 461

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KELLY) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 461, a resolution commemorating

and supporting the goals of World AIDS Day.

AMENDMENT NO. 4860

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the names of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) and the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 4860 intended to be proposed to H.R. 4350, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2022 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 465—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT THE UNITED STATES SHOULD PRIORITIZE WITHIN THE GOVERNMENT AND EMPHASIZE WITH ALLIES THE NEED TO PROVIDE CONTINUED SUPPORT TO, AND MAINTAIN LEGAL PATHWAYS FOR THE EMIGRATION OUT OF AFGHANISTAN OF, INDIVIDUALS WHO DO NOT WISH TO BE GOVERNED BY THE TALIBAN

Mr. CASSIDY (for himself and Mrs. SHAHEEN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 465

Whereas, on August 15, 2021, the government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan collapsed, with President Ashraf Ghani fleeing to the United Arab Emirates;

Whereas, on the same day, the Taliban seized Kabul, the capital city of Afghanistan;

Whereas the United States immediately began an emergency evacuation of Afghanistan, focusing on United States citizens, individuals with special immigrant visas, and refugees with Priority 1 and Priority 2 designations;

Whereas, on August 31, 2021, the United States ended its evacuation efforts in Afghanistan, leaving United States citizens and an unknown—but notably high—number of visa-eligible Afghans and other allies at risk of harm from the Taliban;

Whereas Afghan citizens in Afghanistan are increasingly at risk of food insecurity and poverty;

Whereas the increase of poverty in Afghanistan creates conditions that could lead to a dramatic increase in human trafficking and child, early, or force marriage, which disproportionately impact women and girls;

Whereas the United States has a legal duty to protect United States citizens and lawful permanent residents from harm;

Whereas the United States has a moral duty and security interest in protecting the Afghan citizens who worked to build a democracy for themselves based on assurances from the United States Government that such efforts would be defended by the United States and its allies;

Whereas the United States has a humanitarian responsibility to protect individuals who—

(1) are at risk of retribution based on their—

(A) religious beliefs;

(B) activities supporting democracy in Afghanistan; or

(C) defense of human rights, especially women's rights and empowerment;

(2) are in imminent danger due to the absence of the United States-led coalition in Afghanistan, which spanned two decades; or

(3) are at risk of hunger or starvation;

Whereas the United States has ended its military presence in Afghanistan and will conduct any remaining operations in Afghanistan from Doha, Qatar; and

Whereas the United States should not accept the loss of two decades of nation-building, civil society strengthening, elections monitoring, advances in rights for girls and women, cultural exchange programs, and many other initiatives in collaboration with the people of Afghanistan: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That—

(1) it is the sense of the Senate that—

(A) the Secretary of State, in consultation with relevant Federal agencies, should lead a coordinated effort—

(i) to extract United States citizens and lawful permanent residents from Afghanistan;

(ii) to support Afghan citizens in their efforts to safely leave Afghanistan; and

(iii) to maintain open lines of contact and help with individuals remaining in Afghanistan under the Taliban;

(B) to carry out the coordinated effort described in subparagraph (A), the Secretary of State should—

(i) advise and consult with appropriate parties to advocate for the rights and freedoms of the people of Afghanistan at all international venues and with the governments of partner countries; and

(ii) oversee support such as—

(I) assistance mechanisms for Afghan citizens who are in need of humanitarian assistance or who are defending the human rights and freedoms of Afghan citizens; and

(II) other mechanisms sufficient to continue to advocate for United States interests with United States allies and among the international community;

(iii) continue the coordinated effort described in subparagraph (A) until the later of—

(I) the date on which the Secretary of State has assisted in physically relocating, from Afghanistan to locations outside of the internationally recognized border of Afghanistan, any—

(aa) citizen of the United States; and

(bb) lawful permanent resident of the United States;

(II) the date on which an independent human rights monitor has been established and is functioning in Afghanistan; and

(III) the date on which the Secretary of State identifies a neutral international organization or entity that is able to vie for United States interests in Afghanistan till such a time as Afghanistan is returned to legitimate government;

(C) the United States should—

(i) work with the United Nations to establish humanitarian corridors from and to countries bordering Afghanistan, including Tajikistan, which has indicated willingness to receive Afghan refugees; and

(ii) work with such countries to ensure the efficient and safe reception and processing of Afghan refugees, in accordance with international humanitarian law, to be registered by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and processed swiftly and equitably for travel to recipient countries, including the United States;

(D) such humanitarian corridors should be free from obstruction by the Taliban, and safe passage should be provided by the United Nations or any other organization;

(E) humanitarian assistance should continue to be provided to Afghanistan through

the United Nations and international nongovernmental organizations, with special focus on the most vulnerable individuals, including women, girls, and individuals from ethnic minority groups, while also ensuring that the assistance does not benefit the Taliban politically or otherwise;

(F) the United Nations should appoint an independent, nongovernmental human rights monitor, who—

(i) should have continued free access throughout Afghanistan to ensure the Taliban is not brutalizing individuals and families living in Afghanistan; and

(ii) should report to the United Nations Security Council in an ongoing fashion on the human rights and humanitarian situation on the ground in Afghanistan;

(G) the United States should convene a high-level summit to identify and consult with countries willing and able to receive Afghan refugees; and

(H) the Secretary of State should ensure robust interagency coordination and improve collaboration and transparency with Congress, United States civil society, and resettlement agencies so as to improve processing, service provision, and United States capacity to welcome; and

(2) the Senate discourages the United States Government from engaging with the Taliban in any way that would grant the Taliban benefits typically afforded to legitimate governments or would otherwise legitimize the Taliban, including by—

(A) making deposits through the World Bank Group, the International Monetary Fund, or the Department of the Treasury or facilitating any other transactions that would provide economic support to the Taliban;

(B) providing any foreign assistance for a nonhumanitarian purpose that might benefit or accrue to the Taliban;

(C) facilitating any exchange of Ambassadors or fielding any diplomatic mission that goes beyond an “interest section” necessary for diplomatic conversations without recognition; or

(D) allowing the Taliban to occupy Afghanistan's seat in the United Nations.

SENATE RESOLUTION 466—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE IN SUPPORT OF THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY'S (IAEA) NUCLEAR SECURITY ROLE

Mr. LUJÁN (for himself, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. MARKEY, and Mr. MERKLEY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 466

Whereas the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), created in 1957 for the purpose of assisting states in the development and use of nuclear technology for peaceful purposes, plays a critical role in the global nuclear security regime;

Whereas the agency's activities in nuclear security date back to the 1970s, when the agency began providing ad hoc training courses in physical protection;

Whereas these responsibilities expanded following the collapse of the former Soviet Union, reports of nuclear smuggling in the late 1990s, and again after the devastating terror attacks on September 11, 2001;

Whereas the agency established the Nuclear Security Fund to assist countries in protecting their nuclear and radiological materials and facilities;

Whereas the agency's nuclear security efforts are sustained by its technical expertise,

experience, transparency, and confidentiality;

Whereas rogue regimes and clandestine organizations continue to exhibit the ambition to acquire nuclear materials that can be used to build crude radiological and nuclear weapons;

Whereas the IAEA Office of Nuclear Security relies almost exclusively on voluntary funding, which is inherently unpredictable and inconsistent; and

Whereas the 2016 Nuclear Security Summit in Washington, D.C., issued an Action Plan on April 1, 2016, citing the agency's need for "reliable and sufficient resources": Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) maintains that the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) plays an indispensable role in strengthening nuclear security and safety around the globe;

(2) reaffirms that the United States has a vital interest in preventing the spread of nuclear weapons and securing nuclear materials; and

(3) encourages the United States and other member states of the IAEA to take steps to ensure that the IAEA has the resources needed to successfully carry out its duties, including—

(A) supporting the IAEA to continue convening ministerial meetings on nuclear security to promote political commitment;

(B) contributing to the implementation of the IAEA's Nuclear Security Plan through reliable and sufficient resources;

(C) providing appropriate political, technical, and financial support to the Nuclear Security Fund; and

(D) developing a comprehensive strategy to encourage non-state, private sector contributions to the Nuclear Security Fund.

SENATE RESOLUTION 467—RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS MADE BY THE 305-METER RADIO TELESCOPE AT THE ARECIBO OBSERVATORY

Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself, Mr. RUBIO, Ms. WARREN, Mr. MARKEY, and Mr. SCOTT of Florida) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation:

S. RES. 467

Whereas the Department of Defense began developing the Arecibo Observatory located in Barrio Esperanza, Arecibo, Puerto Rico, during the 1950s, and its characteristic instrument, a large radio telescope of 305 meters in diameter was completed in 1963;

Whereas the facility was later owned by the National Science Foundation, and supported by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and various university partners;

Whereas the Arecibo Observatory's 305-meter fixed spherical radio telescope, was the world's largest single-dish radio telescope until the Five-Hundred-Meter Aperture Spherical Radio Telescope located in Gishou, China, began observing in 2016;

Whereas the 305-meter radio telescope made unparalleled contributions to the fields of radio astronomy, planetary, and atmospheric sciences, and played a role in inspiring thousands of students in Puerto Rico, the Nation, and the world to pursue careers in STEM fields through the Arecibo Observatory Education and Public Outreach Programs;

Whereas the radio telescope significantly advanced the field of radio astronomy, including the first indirect detection of gravi-

tational waves, the first detection of extrasolar planets, innumerable contributions to the field of time domain astronomy and the study of the interstellar medium, and played a key role in the search for extraterrestrial intelligence;

Whereas the Arecibo Observatory had the best planetary radar system in the world, used by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration for near-Earth object detection and was an essential part of the agency's planetary defense program;

Whereas the planetary radar at the Arecibo Observatory has contributed fundamentally and significantly to the knowledge of the solar system;

Whereas the Arecibo Observatory's Inherent Scatter Radar and supporting facilities have provided fundamental understanding of the ionosphere and upper atmosphere, and the interface between the atmosphere and space that protects the planet from solar wind, meteors, and other potential threats; and

Whereas, December 1, 2021, marks the 1-year anniversary of the uncontrolled collapse sustained by the radio telescope after a series of cable failures in tower 4: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) acknowledges the loss of the Arecibo Observatory's radio telescope due to its collapse and its implications for the loss of a unique world-class multidisciplinary science facility which conducted research in the areas of space and atmospheric sciences, radar astronomy and planetary sciences, astronomy, and astrophysics;

(2) acknowledges that the uncontrolled collapse of the 305-meter radio telescope represents a remarkable loss of astronomical observation capabilities, scientific research and development, planetary defense capabilities, and applied science advantage for the United States;

(3) recognizes the rich scientific, educational, and economic benefits that the Arecibo Telescope has made to the people of Puerto Rico, the Nation, and the world;

(4) recognizes the work and contributions made by the thousands of dedicated staff who have supported the Arecibo Observatory for close to 6 decades;

(5) commends the National Science Foundation for convening a virtual workshop in June 2021, to explore ideas for future scientific and educational activities at the Arecibo Observatory; and

(6) encourages the National Science Foundation, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and other agencies to study means of replacing the scientific capabilities that were lost at the Arecibo Observatory, utilizing new state-of-the-art technologies at the site.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 4866. Mr. SULLIVAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3867 proposed by Mr. REED to the bill H.R. 4350, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2022 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4867. Mr. SULLIVAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3867 proposed by Mr. REED to the bill H.R. 4350, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4868. Mr. MARSHALL (for himself, Mr. LEE, and Mr. DAINES) submitted an amend-

ment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 6119, Official Title Not Available.

SA 4869. Mr. HAGERTY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 6119, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4870. Mr. HAGERTY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 6119, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 4866. Mr. SULLIVAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3867 proposed by Mr. REED to the bill H.R. 4350, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2022 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle B of title III, add the following:

SEC. 318. DESIGNATION OF CATEGORICAL EXCLUSIONS FROM ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENTS OR ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENTS FOR PERMANENT DEPLOYMENT OF LIMITED NUMBER OF AIRCRAFT WITH STRATEGIC SIGNIFICANCE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Air Force shall designate as an action categorically excluded from the requirements relating to environmental assessments or environmental impact statements for purposes of appendix B of part 989 of title 32, Code of Federal Regulations (or successor regulations), and part 1501 of title 40, Code of Federal Regulations (or successor regulations), any project—

(1) that is critical to national security, maximizes aircraft for contingencies, and enhances operational flexibility; and

(2) that consists of beddown or plus-up of a small number of aircraft to an installation with similar aircraft that does not result in an increase of more than 300 permanent personnel or logistics support requirements at the receiving installation.

(b) APPLICATION OF EXCLUSION.—Subsection (a) shall apply to any aircraft and infrastructure directly supporting a beddown or plus-up described in such subsection, including operational facilities, operational support facilities, and on-base housing.

(c) REPROGRAMMING.—The Secretary of the Air Force may reprogram such funds allocated to the Department of the Air Force as the Secretary considers necessary to expedite a beddown or plus-up described in subsection (a), including for infrastructure supporting such beddown or plus-up pursuant to subsection (b).

(d) REGULATIONS.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Air Force shall prescribe such regulations as are necessary to carry out this section.

SA 4867. Mr. SULLIVAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3867 proposed by Mr. REED to the bill H.R. 4350, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2022 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title VI, add the following:

SEC. 607. MODIFICATIONS TO CALCULATION OF BASIC HOUSING ALLOWANCE FOR REMOTE OR ISOLATED AREAS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 403(b) of title 37, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(9) In the case of a military housing area determined by the Secretary of Defense to be remote or isolated, the Secretary shall determine the costs of adequate housing under paragraph (2) based on the higher of the median or the mean rent in that area.”.

(b) ABSORPTION RATE FOR OUT-OF-POCKET EXPENSES.—Paragraph (3) of such section is amended by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(C) In the case of a military housing area determined by the Secretary of Defense to be remote or isolated, the percentage to be used for purposes of subparagraph (A)(ii) shall be zero percent for months occurring after 2021.”.

SA 4868. Mr. MARSHALL (for himself, Mr. LEE, and Mr. DAINES) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 6119, Official Title Not Available; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ PROHIBITION ON FUNDING FOR COVID-19 VACCINE MANDATES.

None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available under this Act may be obligated or expended to—

(1) implement or enforce—

(A) section 1910.501 of title 29, Code of Federal Regulations (or a successor regulation);

(B) Executive Order 14042 of September 9, 2021 (86 Fed. Reg. 50985; relating to ensuring adequate COVID safety protocols for Federal contractors);

(C) Executive Order 14043 of September 9, 2021 (86 Fed. Reg. 50989; relating to requiring Coronavirus Disease 2019 vaccination for Federal employees);

(D) the interim final rule issued by the Department of Health and Human Services on November 5, 2021, entitled “Medicare and Medicaid Programs; Omnibus COVID-19 Health Care Staff Vaccination” (86 Fed. Reg. 61555); or

(E) the memorandum signed by the Secretary of Defense on August 24, 2021, for “Mandatory Coronavirus Disease 2019 Vaccination of Department of Defense Service Members”; or

(2) promulgate, implement, or enforce any rule, regulation, or other agency statement, that is substantially similar to a regulation, Executive Order, rule, or memorandum described in paragraph (1).

SA 4869. Mr. HAGERTY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 6119, Official Title Not Available; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

TITLE ____ CONGRESSIONAL REVIEW OF CERTAIN ACTIONS RELATING TO IRAN SANCTIONS

SEC. ____ 01. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the “Iran Sanctions Relief Review Act of 2021”.

SEC. ____ 02. CONGRESSIONAL REVIEW OF CERTAIN ACTIONS RELATING TO SANCTIONS IMPOSED WITH RESPECT TO IRAN.

(a) SUBMISSION TO CONGRESS OF PROPOSED ACTION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, before taking any action described in paragraph (2), the President

shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees and leadership a report that describes the proposed action and the reasons for that action.

(2) ACTIONS DESCRIBED.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—An action described in this paragraph is—

(i) an action to terminate the application of any sanctions described in subparagraph (B);

(ii) with respect to sanctions described in subparagraph (B) imposed by the President with respect to a person, an action to waive the application of those sanctions with respect to that person; or

(iii) a licensing action that significantly alters United States foreign policy with respect to Iran.

(B) SANCTIONS DESCRIBED.—The sanctions described in this subparagraph are sanctions with respect to Iran provided for under—

(i) the Iran Sanctions Act of 1996 (Public Law 104-172; 50 U.S.C. 1701 note);

(ii) the Comprehensive Iran Sanctions, Accountability, and Divestment Act of 2010 (22 U.S.C. 8501 et seq.);

(iii) section 1245 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012 (22 U.S.C. 8513a);

(iv) the Iran Threat Reduction and Syria Human Rights Act of 2012 (22 U.S.C. 8701 et seq.);

(v) the Iran Freedom and Counter-Proliferation Act of 2012 (22 U.S.C. 8801 et seq.);

(vi) the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 note); or

(vii) any other statute or Executive order that requires or authorizes the imposition of sanctions with respect to Iran.

(3) DESCRIPTION OF TYPE OF ACTION.—Each report submitted under paragraph (1) with respect to an action described in paragraph (2) shall include a description of whether the action—

(A) is not intended to significantly alter United States foreign policy with respect to Iran; or

(B) is intended to significantly alter United States foreign policy with respect to Iran.

(4) INCLUSION OF ADDITIONAL MATTER.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Each report submitted under paragraph (1) that relates to an action that is intended to significantly alter United States foreign policy with respect to Iran shall include a description of—

(i) the significant alteration to United States foreign policy with respect to Iran;

(ii) the anticipated effect of the action on the national security interests of the United States; and

(iii) the policy objectives for which the sanctions affected by the action were initially imposed.

(B) REQUESTS FROM BANKING AND FINANCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEES.—The Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate or the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives may request the submission to the Committee of the matter described in clauses (ii) and (iii) of subparagraph (A) with respect to a report submitted under paragraph (1) that relates to an action that is not intended to significantly alter United States foreign policy with respect to Iran.

(5) CONFIDENTIALITY OF PROPRIETARY INFORMATION.—Proprietary information that can be associated with a particular person with respect to an action described in paragraph (2) may be included in a report submitted under paragraph (1) only if the appropriate congressional committees and leadership provide assurances of confidentiality, unless that person otherwise consents in writing to such disclosure.

(6) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Paragraph (2)(A)(iii) shall not be construed to require

the submission of a report under paragraph (1) with respect to the routine issuance of a license that does not significantly alter United States foreign policy with respect to Iran.

(b) PERIOD FOR REVIEW BY CONGRESS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—During the period of 30 calendar days beginning on the date on which the President submits a report under subsection (a)(1)—

(A) in the case of a report that relates to an action that is not intended to significantly alter United States foreign policy with respect to Iran, the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives should, as appropriate, hold hearings and briefings and otherwise obtain information in order to fully review the report; and

(B) in the case of a report that relates to an action that is intended to significantly alter United States foreign policy with respect to Iran, the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives should, as appropriate, hold hearings and briefings and otherwise obtain information in order to fully review the report.

(2) EXCEPTION.—The period for congressional review under paragraph (1) of a report required to be submitted under subsection (a)(1) shall be 60 calendar days if the report is submitted on or after July 10 and on or before September 7 in any calendar year.

(3) LIMITATION ON ACTIONS DURING INITIAL CONGRESSIONAL REVIEW PERIOD.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, during the period for congressional review provided for under paragraph (1) of a report submitted under subsection (a)(1) proposing an action described in subsection (a)(2), including any additional period for such review as applicable under the exception provided in paragraph (2), the President may not take that action unless a joint resolution of approval with respect to that action is enacted in accordance with subsection (c).

(4) LIMITATION ON ACTIONS DURING PRESIDENTIAL CONSIDERATION OF A JOINT RESOLUTION OF DISAPPROVAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, if a joint resolution of disapproval relating to a report submitted under subsection (a)(1) proposing an action described in subsection (a)(2) passes both Houses of Congress in accordance with subsection (c), the President may not take that action for a period of 12 calendar days after the date of passage of the joint resolution of disapproval.

(5) LIMITATION ON ACTIONS DURING CONGRESSIONAL RECONSIDERATION OF A JOINT RESOLUTION OF DISAPPROVAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, if a joint resolution of disapproval relating to a report submitted under subsection (a)(1) proposing an action described in subsection (a)(2) passes both Houses of Congress in accordance with subsection (c), and the President vetoes the joint resolution, the President may not take that action for a period of 10 calendar days after the date of the President's veto.

(6) EFFECT OF ENACTMENT OF A JOINT RESOLUTION OF DISAPPROVAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, if a joint resolution of disapproval relating to a report submitted under subsection (a)(1) proposing an action described in subsection (a)(2) is enacted in accordance with subsection (c), the President may not take that action.

(c) JOINT RESOLUTIONS OF DISAPPROVAL OR APPROVAL.—

(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

(A) JOINT RESOLUTION OF APPROVAL.—The term “joint resolution of approval” means only a joint resolution of either House of Congress—

(i) the title of which is as follows: “A joint resolution approving the President’s proposal to take an action relating to the application of certain sanctions with respect to Iran.”; and

(ii) the sole matter after the resolving clause of which is the following: “Congress approves of the action relating to the application of sanctions imposed with respect to Iran proposed by the President in the report submitted to Congress under section 02(a)(1) of the Iran Sanctions Relief Review Act of 2021 on _____ relating to _____”, with the first blank space being filled with the appropriate date and the second blank space being filled with a short description of the proposed action.

(B) JOINT RESOLUTION OF DISAPPROVAL.—The term “joint resolution of disapproval” means only a joint resolution of either House of Congress—

(i) the title of which is as follows: “A joint resolution disapproving the President’s proposal to take an action relating to the application of certain sanctions with respect to Iran.”; and

(ii) the sole matter after the resolving clause of which is the following: “Congress disapproves of the action relating to the application of sanctions imposed with respect to Iran proposed by the President in the report submitted to Congress under section 02(a)(1) of the Iran Sanctions Relief Review Act of 2021 on _____ relating to _____”, with the first blank space being filled with the appropriate date and the second blank space being filled with a short description of the proposed action.

(2) INTRODUCTION.—During the period of 30 calendar days provided for under subsection (b)(1), including any additional period as applicable under the exception provided in subsection (b)(2), a joint resolution of approval or joint resolution of disapproval may be introduced—

(A) in the House of Representatives, by the majority leader or the minority leader; and

(B) in the Senate, by the majority leader (or the majority leader’s designee) or the minority leader (or the minority leader’s designee).

(3) FLOOR CONSIDERATION IN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.—If a committee of the House of Representatives to which a joint resolution of approval or joint resolution of disapproval has been referred has not reported the joint resolution within 10 calendar days after the date of referral, that committee shall be discharged from further consideration of the joint resolution.

(4) CONSIDERATION IN THE SENATE.—

(A) COMMITTEE REFERRAL.—A joint resolution of approval or joint resolution of disapproval introduced in the Senate shall be—

(i) referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs if the joint resolution relates to a report under subsection (a)(3)(A) that relates to an action that is not intended to significantly alter United States foreign policy with respect to Iran; and

(ii) referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations if the joint resolution relates to a report under subsection (a)(3)(B) that relates to an action that is intended to significantly alter United States foreign policy with respect to Iran.

(B) REPORTING AND DISCHARGE.—If the committee to which a joint resolution of approval or joint resolution of disapproval was referred has not reported the joint resolution within 10 calendar days after the date of referral of the joint resolution, that committee shall be discharged from further consideration of the joint resolution and the joint resolution shall be placed on the appropriate calendar.

(C) PROCEEDING TO CONSIDERATION.—Notwithstanding Rule XXII of the Standing

Rules of the Senate, it is in order at any time after the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs or the Committee on Foreign Relations, as the case may be, reports a joint resolution of approval or joint resolution of disapproval to the Senate or has been discharged from consideration of such a joint resolution (even though a previous motion to the same effect has been disagreed to) to move to proceed to the consideration of the joint resolution, and all points of order against the joint resolution (and against consideration of the joint resolution) are waived. The motion to proceed is not debatable. The motion is not subject to a motion to postpone. A motion to reconsider the vote by which the motion is agreed to or disagreed to shall not be in order.

(D) RULINGS OF THE CHAIR ON PROCEDURE.—Appeals from the decisions of the Chair relating to the application of the rules of the Senate, as the case may be, to the procedure relating to a joint resolution of approval or joint resolution of disapproval shall be decided without debate.

(E) CONSIDERATION OF VETO MESSAGES.—Debate in the Senate of any veto message with respect to a joint resolution of approval or joint resolution of disapproval, including all debatable motions and appeals in connection with the joint resolution, shall be limited to 10 hours, to be equally divided between, and controlled by, the majority leader and the minority leader or their designees.

(5) RULES RELATING TO SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.—

(A) TREATMENT OF SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION IN HOUSE.—In the House of Representatives, the following procedures shall apply to a joint resolution of approval or a joint resolution of disapproval received from the Senate (unless the House has already passed a joint resolution relating to the same proposed action):

(i) The joint resolution shall be referred to the appropriate committees.

(ii) If a committee to which a joint resolution has been referred has not reported the joint resolution within 2 calendar days after the date of referral, that committee shall be discharged from further consideration of the joint resolution.

(iii) Beginning on the third legislative day after each committee to which a joint resolution has been referred reports the joint resolution to the House or has been discharged from further consideration thereof, it shall be in order to move to proceed to consider the joint resolution in the House. All points of order against the motion are waived. Such a motion shall not be in order after the House has disposed of a motion to proceed on the joint resolution. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the motion to its adoption without intervening motion. The motion shall not be debatable. A motion to reconsider the vote by which the motion is disposed of shall not be in order.

(iv) The joint resolution shall be considered as read. All points of order against the joint resolution and against its consideration are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the joint resolution to final passage without intervening motion except 2 hours of debate equally divided and controlled by the sponsor of the joint resolution (or a designee) and an opponent. A motion to reconsider the vote on passage of the joint resolution shall not be in order.

(B) TREATMENT OF HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION IN SENATE.—

(i) RECEIPT BEFORE PASSAGE.—If, before the passage by the Senate of a joint resolution of approval or joint resolution of disapproval, the Senate receives an identical joint resolution from the House of Representatives, the following procedures shall apply:

(I) That joint resolution shall not be referred to a committee.

(II) With respect to that joint resolution—
(aa) the procedure in the Senate shall be the same as if no joint resolution had been received from the House of Representatives; but

(bb) the vote on passage shall be on the joint resolution from the House of Representatives.

(i) RECEIPT AFTER PASSAGE.—If, following passage of a joint resolution of approval or joint resolution of disapproval in the Senate, the Senate receives an identical joint resolution from the House of Representatives, that joint resolution shall be placed on the appropriate Senate calendar.

(iii) NO COMPANION MEASURE.—If a joint resolution of approval or a joint resolution of disapproval is received from the House, and no companion joint resolution has been introduced in the Senate, the Senate procedures under this subsection shall apply to the House joint resolution.

(C) APPLICATION TO REVENUE MEASURES.—The provisions of this paragraph shall not apply in the House of Representatives to a joint resolution of approval or joint resolution of disapproval that is a revenue measure.

(6) RULES OF HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND SENATE.—This subsection is enacted by Congress—

(A) as an exercise of the rulemaking power of the Senate and the House of Representatives, respectively, and as such is deemed a part of the rules of each House, respectively, and supersedes other rules only to the extent that it is inconsistent with such rules; and

(B) with full recognition of the constitutional right of either House to change the rules (so far as relating to the procedure of that House) at any time, in the same manner, and to the same extent as in the case of any other rule of that House.

(d) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES AND LEADERSHIP DEFINED.—In this section, the term “appropriate congressional committees and leadership” means—

(1) the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, the Committee on Foreign Relations, and the majority and minority leaders of the Senate; and

(2) the Committee on Financial Services, the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and the Speaker, the majority leader, and the minority leader of the House of Representatives.

SA 4870. Mr. HAGERTY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 6119, Official Title Not Available; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 7, between lines 14 and 15, insert the following:

U.S. IMMIGRATION AND CUSTOMS
ENFORCEMENT
OPERATIONS AND SUPPORT

For an additional amount for “Enforcement and Removal Operations”, \$1,600,000,000, to remain available until expended, for necessary expenses in support of operations necessary to detain and deport a higher number of illegal aliens who have been convicted of a criminal offense in the United States.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO
MEET

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I have 5 requests for committees to meet during today’s session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority Leaders.

Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committees are authorized to meet during today's session of the Senate:

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

The Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, December 2, 2021, to conduct a hearing on nominations.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

The Committee on Energy and Natural Resources is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, December 2, 2021, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

The Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, December 2, 2021, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on nominations.

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

The Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, December 2, 2021, at 10:15 a.m., to conduct a hearing on nominations.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, December 2, 2021, at 9 a.m., to conduct an executive business meeting.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that my Defense fellow, Ashley Carline, and Pearson fellow, Megan Tetrick, be given floor privileges for the remainder of the 117th Congress.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDERS FOR MONDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2021

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 3 p.m., Monday, December 6; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and morning business be closed; that upon the conclusion of morning busi-

ness, the Senate proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the Rosenworcel nomination.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. SCHUMER. For the information of Senators, there will be a rollcall vote at 5:30 p.m. on cloture on the Rosenworcel nomination.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL MONDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2021, AT 3 P.M.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 9:29 p.m., adjourned until Monday, December 6, 2021, at 3 p.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

JEROME H. POWELL, OF MARYLAND, TO BE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM FOR A TERM OF FOUR YEARS. (RE-APPOINTMENT)

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

NANI A. COLORETTI, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET, VICE SHALANDA D. YOUNG.

SHALANDA D. YOUNG, OF LOUISIANA, TO BE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET, VICE RUSSELL VOUGHT.

UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

JODI BETH HERMAN, OF MARYLAND, TO BE AN ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR OF THE UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, VICE RICHARD C. PARKER.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

STEVEN H. FAGIN, OF NEW JERSEY, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF YEMEN.

NATIONAL FOUNDATION ON THE ARTS AND THE HUMANITIES

BIDTAH N. BECKER, OF ARIZONA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE ARTS FOR A TERM EXPIRING SEPTEMBER 3, 2022. (NEW POSITION)

ESTRELLITA BOGRAD BRODSKY, OF NEW YORK, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE HUMANITIES FOR A TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 26, 2026, VICE RUSSELL A. BERMAN, TERM EXPIRED.

GRETCHEN GONZALEZ DAVIDSON, OF MICHIGAN, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE ARTS FOR A TERM EXPIRING SEPTEMBER 3, 2022, VICE THOMAS EDGAR ROTHMAN, TERM EXPIRED.

VANESSA NORTINGTON GAMBLE, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE HUMANITIES FOR A TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 26, 2026, VICE JOHN FONTE, TERM EXPIRED.

DAVID ANTHONY HAJDU, OF NEW YORK, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE HUMANITIES FOR A TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 26, 2026, VICE PHYLLIS KAMINSKY, TERM EXPIRED.

JERRY KANG, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE HUMANITIES FOR A TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 26, 2026, VICE JOYCE MALCOLM, TERM EXPIRED.

KATHRYN KAHRS MATTHEW, OF SOUTH CAROLINA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE HU-

MANITIES FOR A TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 26, 2026, VICE NOEL VALIS, TERM EXPIRED.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

GLENN LAUREN WRIGHT-GALLO, OF NEVADA, TO BE ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION AND REHABILITATIVE SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, VICE JOHNNY COLLETT, RESIGNED.

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant colonel

SHAWN R. JOKINEN

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE REGULAR ARMY MEDICAL CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 531, 716, AND 7064:

To be lieutenant colonel

JESSICA K. SMYTH

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be major

BROCK A. CHAVEZ

IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE REGULAR NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 531 AND 8132:

To be lieutenant commander

STEPHEN B. KOYE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED INDIVIDUAL FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE REGULAR NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 531:

To be lieutenant commander

MICHAEL J. URBATIS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE REGULAR NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 531 AND 8132:

To be lieutenant commander

ALEXANDER C. CHARALAMBOUS
RAMA K. MUTYALA
TAIBATU E. I. OBASI

DISCHARGED NOMINATION

The Senate Committee on the Judiciary was discharged from further consideration of the following nomination pursuant to S. Res. 27 and the nomination was placed on the Executive Calendar:

RACHAEL S. ROLLINS, OF MASSACHUSETTS, TO BE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY FOR THE DISTRICT OF MASSACHUSETTS FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS.

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate December 2, 2021:

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

C.B. SULLENBERGER III, OF TEXAS, FOR THE RANK OF AMBASSADOR DURING HIS TENURE OF SERVICE AS REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA ON THE COUNCIL OF THE INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION.

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

BRIAN EDDIE NELSON, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE UNDER SECRETARY FOR TERRORISM AND FINANCIAL CRIMES.

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

LARRY D. TURNER, OF NORTH CAROLINA, TO BE INSPECTOR GENERAL, DEPARTMENT OF LABOR.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

SANDRA D. BRUCE, OF DELAWARE, TO BE INSPECTOR GENERAL, DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE ANDREWS BAND DIRECTOR AND BUS DRIVER

HON. AUGUST PFLUGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 2, 2021

Mr. PFLUGER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to offer sympathy and prayer to the community of Andrews, as well as the families of Darin Johns and Marc Boswell, who were tragically killed in a bus crash while traveling with the Andrews High School Band to a Mustangs playoff game two weeks ago.

Darin Johns was the beloved band director for Andrews High School. In the weeks since the accident, we have seen an outpouring of testimonies about Mr. Johns from former students, friends, colleagues, and other band directors across the entire state of Texas.

As I learn more about the life that Mr. Johns led, I am continually encouraged by the quality of service that he gave to his community and the quantity of people whose lives he touched.

Mr. Johns was an active member of the Andrews community who dedicated his life to his faith, loved his wife Karen and family and friends deeply, and invested in his natural talent and deep love of music. He was a gifted musician who could play almost any instrument he touched. In his free time, he played in a Christian band and directed the church praise band as an active member of the Calvary Baptist Church.

Mr. Johns deepest passion was encouraging the younger generations. For over 30 years, he taught others to love music as a high school band director. Over his impressive tenure, Mr. Johns led three different high school marching bands to the State Marching Contest. He lent all his time and energy to building up the dreams and talents of those around him.

I also want to recognize Marc Boswell, a humble and beloved Andrews public servant, who also tragically passed away in the bus crash.

Marc devoted his life to Andrews—as a high school math teacher, employee of the Andrews school district, involved community leader, and beloved friend, father, husband, and son. After retiring, Mr. Boswell stayed busy running stats for the Andrews football team, timing the swim team meets, and driving buses for Andrews ISD sports and extra-curricular activities.

He was known for his servant heart, incredible work ethic, infectious smiles, and deep love for his wife Carol and his children and grandchildren.

Andrews ISD and our communities across West Texas are mourning the loss of these two incredible men.

Camille and I are sending our support and prayers to Andrews, to the families of Mr. Johns and Mr. Boswell, as well as the loved ones of Nathan Haile, who was also killed in the crash.

MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE AWARENESS

HON. J. FRENCH HILL

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 2, 2021

Mr. HILL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to bring awareness to the current mental health crisis.

My home state of Arkansas has one of the highest proportions of individuals with trauma and PTSD in the nation. The COVID crisis has increased the mental health needs of Arkansans and all Americans.

Last year in Arkansas we tragically lost 583 of our neighbors, friends, and family members to suicide. Many personally know the pain of what it is like to lose a person to suicide.

Suicide rates in Arkansas are above the American average. Simultaneously, Arkansas also has a higher rate of adults with mental health conditions, including anxiety and depression.

There are more resources now than ever to provide support for anyone who needs it. I am proud to have supported funding for these resources earlier this Congress, including funding for the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline.

Mental health can be a tough topic to speak about, but it shouldn't be.

HONORING LEROY WARE

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 2, 2021

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable community servant, Mr. Leroy Ware.

Leroy Ware is the youngest of eleven children, born April 14, 1954 to Mr. Granville and Mrs. Myrtle Ware in the Browning Community. Leroy attended and graduated from Amanda Elzy High School. He was an honor student while still participating in the football program at school and helping the family cultivate and harvest crops.

After graduating from high school, Leroy attended Mississippi Valley State University in Itta Bena, Mississippi, and studied Business Administration. He participated in the Co-Op Program at Mississippi Valley State University and was assigned to Warner Robins Air Force Base in Warner Robins, Georgia. There, he trained to be a systems analyst. Leroy was later employed by the first African American Tax Assessor/Collector of Leflore County.

Leroy worked as a deputy assessor from 1985 until 1999. He then, successfully vied for and won the elected title of Tax Assessor in 1999. He still competently holds that position.

Leroy is married to Mrs. Earlean Davidson Ware. They have three children, Stephanie Davidson, Stephen Davidson, and Krystal

Austin. Leroy has lived by the lessons taught to him by his father: "Family is everything; You don't fight family; and, Always be there to lend a helping hand."

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Leroy Ware for his dedication and tenacity to serving his community and desire to be an example for all.

HONORING ST. JOSEPH COUNTY COMMISSIONER ANDY KOSTIELNEY FOR HIS SERVICE TO HOOSIERS

HON. JACKIE WALORSKI

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 2, 2021

Mrs. WALORSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor St. Joseph County Commissioner Andy Kostielney for his outstanding service to Hoosiers in our community and beyond as he prepares to retire in 2022. For more than a decade, Commissioner Kostielney has been a dedicated, savvy, and servant-hearted leader.

As the District 1 Commissioner, he represents northern St. Joseph County, including Granger, all of Clay, German and Harris townships and parts of the far-north sides of South Bend and Mishawaka.

Throughout his tenure, Commissioner Kostielney—who currently serves as President of the Board of Commissioners—has worked tirelessly to deliver results for St. Joseph County Hoosiers. Since taking office in 2009, he has developed expertise on the issues that matter most to our community—creating jobs, stewarding resources, and building a brighter future for St. Joseph County.

Among his many achievements, Commissioner Kostielney spearheaded the South Shore double tracking project that will make it easier for those who work in the Chicago area to join our community and make a home in Indiana. He also has developed key public-private partnerships, including with the University of Notre Dame, to drive results for Hoosier families.

A lifelong Hoosier, Commissioner Kostielney has deep roots in this region. This is where he and his wife, Joy, have raised their beautiful family and served as active community members. In addition to his official duties in St. Joseph County, Commissioner Kostielney also serves as Assistant Manager of the Robinson Community Learning Center at the University of Notre Dame.

Previously, he served on the St. Joseph County Council from 2003 through 2006. As he prepares to retire, Commissioner Kostielney leaves an outstanding legacy that has contributed to the overall development, growth and modernization of St. Joseph County.

On behalf of the 2nd District of Indiana, it is my privilege to honor Commissioner Andy Kostielney and thank him for his years of service to our community. I am proud to call Commissioner Kostielney a dear friend, and I am

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

grateful for his longstanding partnership in serving the people of St. Joseph County. As he and his family embark on a new chapter, I wish them continued good health and happiness.

**HONORING ANTHONY GALAGAZA
FOR HIS SERVICE TO THE BA-
KERSFIELD FIRE DEPARTMENT**

HON. KEVIN MCCARTHY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 2, 2021

Mr. MCCARTHY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Bakersfield Fire Department Chief Anthony Galagaza on his retirement from the Bakersfield Fire Department after 30 years of public service to our community.

Anthony's career as a first responder and exposure to firefighting began when he accepted a summer position in 1989 as a seasonal firefighter for the United States Bureau of Land Management. Captivated by the field, Anthony decided to take his talents to the Bakersfield Fire Department, where he would complete over 30 years of service. Indicative of his knowledge of public safety and passion for helping others in times of crisis, Anthony quickly climbed the ladder within the Department. In 1990, Anthony started out as a reserve firefighter and in 1992 became a full-time firefighter. In 2013, Anthony was promoted to Fire Battalion Chief after serving as a fire engineer and Fire Captain. Five years later, Anthony was tapped to become the Fire Chief, overseeing the Department's fleet of personnel, fire stations, and various divisions.

During his tenure as Fire Chief, Anthony has transformed the Department to ensure it had the staff and resources necessary to tackle the challenges of the next decade. Some of his major achievements include significantly increasing the number of rescue squads and arson personnel in the Department, advancing health and wellness programs for Department staff and firefighters, and fostering public trust in the community. The emphasis on public trust and outreach helped the Bakersfield Fire Department maintain its elite status among fire departments as a recipient of a class two rating by the Insurance Services Office, which assesses the ability of a fire department to respond effectively to fires in its area of responsibility. This high rating indicates the effectiveness of the Bakersfield Fire Department and is a testament to Anthony's effective leadership as the Fire Chief.

Anthony's investment in, and passion for, keeping the people of Bakersfield safe is without question. That is why, in August 2021, as House Republican Leader, I had the privilege to appoint him to the Medal of Valor Review Board, which reviews individuals to be awarded the Public Safety Officer Medal of Valor—the highest national award for valor a public safety officer can receive—and make recommendations to the White House.

Throughout his career, Anthony has dedicated himself to serving others, building trust in the city, and ensuring the safety and security of homes, schools, and workplaces in our community. He has been integral in highlighting the value of our firefighting and dispatch personnel and will be missed by the Ba-

kersfield Fire Department, which he has referred to as his second family. On behalf of the people of Bakersfield and the 23rd Congressional District of California, I would like to thank Anthony for his decades of service to our community and I wish him and his family the very best as he starts this next chapter of his life.

HUMAN RIGHTS IN KAZAKHSTAN

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 2, 2021

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, the global competition for ideas between the community of democracies and the People's Republic of China (PRC) is nowhere more apparent than in Kazakhstan, where the PRC has steadily increased its influence in the country since the collapse of the Soviet Union. The PRC wants Kazakh oil, cheap Kazakh labor, and most importantly, Kazakh government help silencing predominantly-Muslim Central Asian peoples, whose reports of genocide on their kinsmen in Xinjiang are inconvenient and embarrassing to the PRC.

While pursuing their goals in Kazakhstan, the PRC pushes its authoritarian governance model, a growing contempt for human rights, and assistance with mass surveillance tools. And too many Kazakh leaders have proven to be all-too-willing accomplices.

Perhaps most troubling is the PRC's pressure on Kazakhstan to keep Kazakhs, Uyghurs, Kyrgyz and other Central Asians silent about the genocide and other gross violations of human rights in Xinjiang. On July 13, 2021, Gulzira Auelkhan, an ethnic Kazakh from the PRC who had emigrated to Kazakhstan but returned to China, gave heart-breaking testimony at the hearing I chaired at the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission about her experience as a survivor of China's concentration camps.

Ms. Auelkhan testified that while she was in the camp, Chinese authorities subjected her to physical, mental, and spiritual torture. One particularly disturbing story was that Chinese authorities inserted needles under her fingernails for attempting to cheat on a Chinese language exam. She also testified that the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) runs a forced prostitution system inside these camps, where Chinese men routinely rape the female prisoners.

While Chinese authorities released her due to pressure from a Radio Free Asia story that revealed her plight, Gulzira's troubles only increased upon her return to Kazakhstan. Instead of sympathy, Kazakh officials intimidated her, and pressured her family to stop speaking out about the horrors she experienced in Xinjiang. Her refusal to stay silent resulted in her having to flee to the United States in search of a place where she could speak freely about the Chinese concentration camps, and how Kazakhstan rejected her.

The fact that Kazakhstan enables China's genocide in Xinjiang arises from Kazakhstan's dependence upon PRC's massive monetary investments, including in the Belt and Road Initiative, and the malfeasance of kleptocratic Kazakh officials.

Some of these corrupt officials reportedly have ties with the Eurasian Natural Resources

Corporation (ENRC), a Kazakh-based company that three billionaire Kazakh businessmen and the Kazakh government founded. ENRC shares ties with members of the former president's family, particularly Timur Kulibayev, who was part of a questionable pipeline deal brokered with Chinese entities. The company has also been investigated by the UK's Serious Fraud Office (SFO).

Sadly the record of gross human rights violations by government officials acting with impunity is not new in Kazakhstan. In 2012, at a hearing I chaired, entitled: "Kazakhstan: As Stable As It's Government Claims?", our witnesses provided expert testimony questioning the stability of the country and exposing statewide corruption and massive human rights abuses sanctioned by the Kazakhstan government—including torture and abuse by government security forces.

At the time, the government of Kazakhstan was headed by the former authoritarian "President for Life" Nazarbayev, who ruled with an iron fist, snuffing out dissent and fighting hard to obscure the serious human rights and democracy deficiencies that marked his reign.

Today, unfortunately, his oldest daughter, Dariga Nazarbayeva reportedly carries on the family legacy of corruption as a member of the Kazakh Congress.

According to the Eurasia Democracy Initiative, Dariga Nazarbayeva used an illegal passport to open multiple Austrian bank accounts containing millions of dollars, tapping her position and her father's to launder ill-gotten wealth out of the country. A Times of London article recently revealed that she and her son owned over £140 million of property, including the fictional home of Sherlock Holmes, located on 221b Baker Street.

There is little hope that these oligarchs, rich with money stolen from their own people with the assistance the genocidal foreign regime of the PRC, will even-handedly administer justice or respect human rights when they so readily abuse the rule of law, jeopardizing the rights and security of their fellow Kazakh citizens at the apparent behest of the CCP and for their own financial interests.

The Biden Administration must engage the government of Kazakhstan more forcefully, including the use of sanctions under the Global Magnitsky Act. I urge my colleagues to join me in pressing the Biden Administration to elevate and combat the human rights abuses in Kazakhstan, address corruption in this strategic part of the world, and do everything it can to counter the CCP's baneful influence in Kazakhstan.

**HONORING THE LIFE OF RANDAL
S. MACDONALD**

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 2, 2021

Mr. HUFFMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in celebration of the life of Randal (Randy) S. MacDonald, who died unexpectedly on October 6, 2021. Randy is deserving of recognition for his life-long commitment to protecting our environment, and his passionate efforts to educate and inspire action to address the existential crisis of climate change.

Randy was born in Alameda, California and was raised in a family that valued the importance of environmental activism. From a young age, he was passionate about politics, the environment, and social justice. Randy went on to graduate Summa Cum Laude from University of Oregon, in 1990, with a degree in Political Science.

While in Oregon, Randy was an elected City Councilor in Eugene, Oregon, and worked as Director of Legislative and Community Affairs at University of Oregon. He is remembered there for his leadership in successful efforts to restore state funding for public higher education, and for winning voter approval of funding to build and improve local fire department facilities.

Randy returned home to California in 2000, settling in scenic Comptche, California, in the heart of Mendocino County. Always a steward of the environment, Randy planted 2,800 redwoods on his 50 acres to aid its return to the natural conifer forest it once was. He served on many committees and boards of groups fighting for action on climate change, including as Chair of the Redwood Chapter of the Sierra Club's Climate and Energy Committee. In his professional work, he served as partner/owner and COO of a successful online business offering continuing education for health care professionals.

Randy's community service was both deep and broad. Randy advocated in Washington, D.C. for all rural communities to have high speed internet connectivity, and he succeeded in bringing this to Comptche in 2009. He was an active volunteer with the Comptche Volunteer Fire Department for twenty years, still holding the position of Safety Officer at the time of his death.

Randy is survived by his wife Janis, stepson Jonathan, father James and his wife Carol, siblings Charlotte, Gail, and Mark, stepbrother Rande, and stepfather Ed, five nieces, and one nephew.

Madam Speaker, I respectfully ask that you join me in extending condolences to Randy's family and many friends, and in expressing our deep appreciation for Randy's extraordinary dedication throughout his life to the betterment of our natural environment and the broader community.

HONORING ADEOLA "ABRAHAM"
OLAGBEGI

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 2, 2021

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable public servant, Adeola "Abraham" Olagbegi from Jackson, Mississippi.

After a successful bone marrow transplant in November 2020, Adeola Olagbegi was given a chance to Make-A-Wish. Instead of wanting something a typical 13-year-old fighting cancer may ask for, he used his wish to start something bigger than himself.

Mr. Olagbegi chose to use his wish to feed the homeless for a year in his hometown, Jackson, MS. Before being diagnosed with Aplastic Anemia, a rare and life-threatening blood disorder, Mr. Olagbegi and his family looked forward to feeding the homeless every

third Saturday in every month. This service to the community is known as "Abraham's Table." "It was always a good thing to do, and that's what I grew up doing that, so I go back to my roots to do what I was taught to do."

"I am a person of hope, so when you come against a big mountain, you have to remember you have a big God." Mr. Olagbegi is a living testimony that if you pour out good unto God's people, God will turn around and bless you beyond measure.

After 10 months of "Abraham's Table", Mr. Olagbegi hopes to turn his wish into a non-profit organization that will continue to impact the City of Jackson for the better. Since the beginning of Abraham's Table, Mr. Olagbegi has fed over hundreds of homeless citizens.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Adeola "Abraham" Olagbegi for his dedication to serve the homeless for years to come.

COMMENDING THE LEADERSHIP
OF DAN FINCH

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 2, 2021

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commending the leadership of Dan Finch, Texas Medical Association Vice President of Advocacy, upon his retirement after 39 years of exemplary work on behalf of patient care and the physician practice of medicine.

Daniel "Dan" Thomas Finch was born on November 16, 1952, reared on the outskirts of Washington, D.C., the eldest of seven children, and the son of a Navy veteran. He moved to Texas in 1982, to work for the Harris County Medical Society before heading to Austin in 2006 to join the public affairs advocacy team of the Texas Medical Association.

Dan's commitment to hard work and serving others began early in life in Catholic school as an altar boy and later with his first job out of University of North Carolina as a bus driver. These early life experiences molded Dan's leadership, communication, and navigation skills which serendipitously led him into a medical association communications position with the North Carolina Medical Society, and then a brief stint with the American Medical Association in Chicago, before heading to Houston where he began a 24-year stint with the Harris County Medical Society, and eventually to Austin where he has served the past 15 years with the Texas Medical Association.

Dan's rapid trajectory and success professionally in the field of medical association communications and advocacy was matched only by his private life as a Renaissance man who developed keen interests as a guitarist, singer, photographer, golfer, motorcycle enthusiast, world traveler, cigar aficionado, Astros baseball fan, home gardener, and outdoor grill master.

Dan has been equally well grounded as a dedicated husband to his loving wife, Becky, for the past 41 years, as a caring father to their daughter, Liz, and son, Nate, and as the loving "Pops" to all of his grandchildren. He has offered his many talents to the community, including being a member of his church band in Houston which performed every Sunday in their Hawaiian shirts. His respect

among his working peers, his dedicated service to the more than 53,000 member physicians in the Texas Medical Association, and his public affairs accomplishments in both the Texas Legislature and in Congress led to his ascension as Vice President of Advocacy for the Texas Medical Association.

Texas is a better and healthier State in part to Dan's steadfast commitment to the highest standards and quality of patient care in Texas, protections for physician autonomy in caring for their patients, common sense health insurance reforms which put patients before insurance profits, and medical liability protections which prevent lawsuit abuse.

Dan's most memorable advice to his younger colleagues was, "A doctor long ago told me if we do what's right for patients, we'll do what's right for physicians, and that's always been my guiding light."

Dan and Becky are now replacing the rolling Texas Hill Country of Austin with a retirement home closer to their grandkids in the rolling hills of Manhattan, Kansas (which is much preferable to that other Manhattan).

I ask that my fellow Members join me in saluting the life, work, and accomplishments of Daniel "Dan" Thomas Finch, on behalf of the Texas Medical Association, for a healthier Nation. I am humbled to formally declare Dan a "great American" who has earned his retirement spurs and a "great Texan" (even if he's not in Texas anymore).

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY
OF CHERYL CATES

HON. CARLOS A. GIMENEZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 2, 2021

Mr. GIMENEZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Key West's former First Lady, Cheryl Cates. Her outstanding public service to the Florida Keys and South Florida and unwavering sense of conviction earned her the respect and admiration from those who knew her and anyone she crossed paths with.

Cheryl led an incredible life full of perseverance and devotion. She was selfless and dedicated to our community having served on several boards and committees. In 2012, Cheryl was awarded the Community Service Award of Excellence for her committed decade of service to Zonta, an organization dedicated to empowering women through service and advocacy. Additionally, she was awarded the Key West Business Guild's Presidential Award and the Key West Star Award from the Chamber of Commerce for her grand contributions over the years.

Cheryl's tremendous service over the years was exemplary. Her legacy is a testament of what it means to be selfless and noble. Her ongoing support and encouragement for local non-profits fostered great awareness in the Keys. Cheryl served as the First Lady of Key West for more than a decade, representing city leadership at hundreds of events throughout former Mayor Craig Cates' time in office.

A woman of dignity and integrity, Cheryl Cates will be remembered for her lifelong charitable contributions to Key West and her dedication to public service. It was a pleasure knowing her. She will be profoundly missed.

May God bless Cheryl Cates.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SCOTT PERRY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 2, 2021

Mr. PERRY. Madam Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 373; NAY on Roll Call No. 374; YEA on Roll Call No. 375; YEA on Roll Call No. 376; NAY on Roll Call No. 377; NAY on Roll Call No. 378; NAY on Roll Call No. 379; YEA on Roll Call No. 380; NAY on Roll Call No. 381; NAY on Roll Call No. 382; NAY on Roll Call No. 383; YEA on Roll Call No. 384; NAY on Roll Call No. 385; and NAY on Roll Call No. 386.

HONORING MICHAEL R. MELILLO

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 2, 2021

Mr. RYAN. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor and pay tribute to Michael Melillo, of Niles, who passed away on Wednesday, November 24, 2021 at the Cleveland Clinic. He was 64 years old.

He was born April 6, 1957, in Warren, the son of Ray and Jean Walden Melillo. Mike was a 1975 graduate of Niles McKinley High School and owned and operated Men's Union Barbershop as well as the adjoining beauty shop, Hair Design by Michael. Mike deeply loved the city of Niles, and he was a beloved fixture of the community. For the last almost 40 years, he could be found daily at his Robbins Avenue barbershop—an establishment built by Mike's immigrant grandfather, Phillip Melillo in the 1930s.

He was a lifelong member of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic Parish in Niles and was a proud Italian-American. His world revolved around his family and nothing pleased him more than to be surrounded by his adorable grandkids.

Mike led a very active and healthy lifestyle. Beyond daily fitness, Mike enjoyed golfing, swimming, running and playing bocce. He loved basketball and was known for his sharp jumpshot all the way up until he quit playing in his late 50s. Many of Mike's days were spent coaching his children's youth sports teams and eventually attending his grandchildren's games. Mike restarted the Mount Carmel grade-school basketball program with Stu Sussman in 1999, where his teams were exceptionally successful in both winning games and building life-long loving friendships. Family traditions were important to Mike. In the summer, he could be found tending his garden and, in the fall, crushing grapes in the wine cellar. Mike was also a Niles Frontliner who had a reverence for the proud Red Dragon Football program.

Mike meant the world to his loved ones and served as the guiding star for his wife and children. He will be gravely missed by his father of Niles; his wife, Gerri Gatta Melillo; a son, Vincent Melillo and his wife, Christina of Dublin, Ohio; two daughters, Michelle Spano

and her husband, Randy of Canfield and Rose Allison Johnson and her husband, Chaz of Niles; a brother, Raymond T. Melillo and his wife, Pam of Poland; three sisters, Vickie Janik and her husband, Ed of Niles, Monica Melillo and her fiancé, Bill Hensley of Painesville and Gwen Maynard of Youngstown; seven grandchildren, Chaz, Enzo, Nico, Mia, Carmela, Capri and Michael; and a little girl due in June (Vince and Christi). He was preceded in death by his mother.

A friend to so many, Mike had a one-of-a-kind sense of humor. He had a knack for building profound relationships and leaving a positive impact on people's lives. While his presence will be most painfully missed by both his family and community, his influence will be everlasting.

HONORING KNOXVILLE CHIEF OF POLICE EVE THOMAS' RETIREMENT

HON. TIM BURCHETT

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 2, 2021

Mr. BURCHETT. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor Knoxville Police Chief Eve Thomas, who recently announced her retirement after nearly 30 years in law enforcement.

Chief Thomas joined the Knoxville Police Department in 1993. She served in many capacities, including as a Patrol Officer, Problem Solving Instructor, Field Training Officer, and a Domestic Violence/Terrorism Instructor at Walters State Community College.

In 1998, she was promoted to Sergeant and served as an Accreditation Manager, Patrol Sergeant, and Personnel Sergeant.

Chief Thomas was promoted again in 2005 to the rank of Lieutenant. With this promotion, she assumed administrative responsibilities of KPD's specialty units, including the Crisis Negotiation Unit, Special Operations Squad, K9 Unit, and several others. She was critical to all these units' operations and, as a result of her reliable performance, Chief Thomas was given additional responsibilities as Patrol Lieutenant, Central Business District Supervisor, and Traffic Services Supervisor.

In 2011, Chief Thomas achieved the rank of Captain and gained supervision of KPD's Support Services Division.

In 2013, she was assigned to the Patrol Division as East District Commander, and then served as Commander of the Department's Internal Affairs Unit and the Criminal Investigations Division.

In February 2018, Chief Thomas was promoted to Deputy Chief over the Criminal Investigation Division. Four months later, she became the 26th Chief of Police and the first woman to hold the top position at the Knoxville Police Department. She has served in this position ever since.

Chief Thomas dedicated her career to protecting the people of Knoxville. I thank Chief Thomas for her service. I wish her the very best in her retirement.

ARKANSAS CODING ACADEMY

HON. J. FRENCH HILL

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 2, 2021

Mr. HILL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Arkansas Coding Academy on their 5-year anniversary.

Since its foundation in 2016, the Arkansas Coding Academy has provided roughly 300 students with the tools and resources needed to succeed in the rapidly growing tech industry and programing opportunities across central Arkansas.

Individual courses typically last only four weeks, and the curriculum as a whole is typically completed in six to nine months.

Their annual Demo Day provided students with the opportunity to show off their final projects while also having the opportunity to be recruited by hiring managers.

The Arkansas Coding Academy develops skilled workers, and I am proud to have such an outstanding program in central Arkansas.

HONORING MARC BOSWELL

HON. AUGUST PFLUGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 2, 2021

Mr. PFLUGER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to offer sympathy and prayer to the community of Andrews, as well as the family of Marc Boswell, who was tragically killed in a bus crash while traveling with the Andrews High School Band to a Mustangs playoff game two weeks ago.

Marc Boswell was a humble and beloved Andrews public servant, who tragically passed away in the bus crash.

Marc devoted his life to Andrews—as a high school math teacher, employee of the Andrews school district, involved community leader, and beloved friend, father, husband, and son. After retiring, Mr. Boswell stayed busy running stats for the Andrews football team, timing the swim team meets, and driving buses for Andrews ISO sports and extra-curricular activities.

He was known for his servant heart, incredible work ethic, infectious smiles, and deep love for his wife Carol and his children and grandchildren.

Andrews ISO and our communities across West Texas are mourning the loss of Mr. Boswell.

Camille and I are sending our support and prayers to Andrews and to Mr. Boswell's family.

HONORING ROSETTA MILLER-PERRY AND THE TENNESSEE TRIBUNE

HON. JIM COOPER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 2, 2021

Mr. COOPER. Madam Speaker I rise today to honor The Tennessee Tribune, one of Tennessee's most influential publications, and Rosetta Miller-Perry, who is the paper's founder, publisher, and CEO.

Thirty years ago, Rosetta took a business risk to launch The Tribune in order to raise awareness of, and address issues facing, Black families. The Tennessee Tribune has become the state's largest minority weekly newspaper, fearlessly speaking truth to power and highlighting stories too often ignored by other publishers.

From joining the United States Navy to working alongside civil rights leaders including Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Z. Alexander Looby, Rosetta has always been an advocate for good on the right side of history. Before founding The Tennessee Tribune, she worked at the United States Civil Rights Commission and the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. After arriving in Nashville, Rosetta founded the city's Black Chamber of Commerce, which is still the preeminent resource for African American businesses in the area. It's no surprise that Rosetta is known to many as the Queen of Jefferson Street, the historic center of Nashville's African American community.

Rosetta's lifetime of accomplishments is documented in HistoryMakers, an oral history collection of prominent African Americans. In 2019, she received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the National Newspaper Publishers Association for her work with The Tribune.

The Tennessee Tribune's work is multi-dimensional. It has two stores in the Nashville International Airport so that most visitors to our state will see the importance and power that diversity has made in shaping our growing region. This progress would not have been possible without Rosetta and The Tribune.

This year marks the thirtieth anniversary of The Tennessee Tribune and Rosetta's dedication to championing the cause of civil rights and leadership of African Americans. Rosetta always makes our city, state, and country better, and I am honored to call her a friend. I look forward to The Tribune's next thirty years and many more decades after that.

CELEBRATING ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF DR. CHARLES TEAMER, SR.

HON. TROY A. CARTER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 2, 2021

Mr. CARTER of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, today I want to recognize Dr. Charles C. Teamer, Sr. of New Orleans, Louisiana, a civic leader and accomplished banker in my district. He has been a role model, an educator, a businessman, and an inspirational mentor to myself and so many others over the years.

Born on May 20, 1933 in Shelby, North Carolina, he received his B.S. degree from Clark Atlanta University in Atlanta, Georgia in 1954. He served in the U.S. Army from 1956 to 1958, and later received his M.A. degree from the University of Nebraska and his Ph.D. degree from Tulane University in New Orleans, Louisiana.

Dr. Teamer has worked as a business manager at several colleges and universities, ultimately becoming the vice president of finance at Dillard University and was promoted to chief financial officer in 1968. In 1983, he was appointed by Governor David Treen as the first African American Commissioner for the Port of New Orleans.

Dr. Teamer has been a proud member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. for 70 years and is a current member of the Sigma Lambda chapter. From 1985 to 1988 he served as the Fraternity's 27th general president. He is also a longtime member and former Grand Sire Archon of the Sigma Pi Phi.

Dr. Teamer was co-founder and chairman of Dryades Savings Bank. After retiring from Dillard University, Teamer led an investment partnership to open The Cotton Exchange and Holiday Inn Express Hotel in downtown New Orleans. He also served as president of the World Trade Center of New Orleans.

From serving as executive director of the Amistad Research Center and a consultant to the U.S. Department of Education, Dr. Teamer has also held numerous board appointments. These included the Board of Education of the United Methodist Church, the National Association of Colleges and University Business Officers, the Ford Foundation, the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, the Ochsner Medical Foundations, the Audubon Institute, and the Common Fund. He also served as chairman for the Urban League of Greater New Orleans, Harrah's New Orleans Casino, the Metropolitan Area Committee, the Greater New Orleans Foundation and the United Way.

Dr. Teamer was a member of the business and higher-education council for the University of New Orleans as well as served on the board of the Southern Education Foundation. This do-it-all man was also president of fiscal affairs at Dillard University and Clark Atlanta University and president of the Southern Association of College and University Business Officers. He served on the board of supervisors for the University of Louisiana System and for Tulane University. Dr. Teamer also had tenure as the Entergy New Orleans director.

As you can see, Dr. Charles C. Teamer, Sr. is a busy man, and I am grateful that our paths have crossed so many times throughout his illustrious career. I want to express my thanks to him and his family, Linda Phoenix Teamer, Charles Jr., Roderick, and the late Mary and Cheryl Teamer, for all of the time and energy he has given to New Orleans. Dr. Teamer has given so much to the community he loves and has lifted up all boats with him as he achieved success. The entire state of Louisiana is grateful for his longtime work and service.

HONORING DR. MAXINE O'DELL GERNERT

HON. CHARLES J. "CHUCK" FLEISCHMANN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 2, 2021

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Maxine O'Dell Gernert of Athens, Tennessee and recognize a lifetime of service to her community and our nation. Dr. Gernert retires from my Congressional staff today.

Dr. Gernert obtained a BS in Education from the University of Tennessee and subsequently earned a Masters of Divinity from the Church of God School of Theology and a Doctorate of Ministries from Columbia Theological Seminary.

Dr. Gernert is an ordained minister, has taught at Lee University, and has spoken internationally for chaplain training. She performed Clinical Pastoral Education training in hospitals and was interim director and chaplain for the Serenity Women's Shelter in Knoxville, TN.

Maxine has been married to Dr. John N. Gernert for over 50 years, and the two have three children and seven grandchildren.

Maxine has been a pillar of public life in East Tennessee for over 30 years. She served as the Area 2 President for the National Federation of Republican Women and as Chairman for the McMinn County Republican Party for two terms.

Dr. Gernert was recognized as the Tennessee GOP Stateman of the Year for District 2 in 2005 and received the Lincoln Award from the McMinn County Republican Party in 2016. She was awarded the Extraordinary Leaders prize from the American Association of Physician Specialties in 2017.

For the past twelve years, Maxine has worked as Field Representative, first in Tennessee's Second Congressional District for Congressman Jimmy Duncan, and since 2013 on my staff in Tennessee's Third Congressional District. In this role, she has tirelessly served our great East Tennessee community helping countless individuals by providing constituent services.

Dr. Maxine Gernert has been an asset to East Tennessee and to me. Always positive and assertive, she has had a tremendous impact on all those fortunate enough to know her. I will treasure my time spent with Maxine and know we will continue to cross paths in the many ways she remains engaged in our communities. I wish her all the best in a well-deserved retirement.

God bless Maxine.

COMMEMORATING THE TUNA CANYON DETENTION STATION

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 2, 2021

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Tuna Canyon Detention Station Coalition as it commemorates the 80th anniversary of the opening of the detention station located in Tujunga, California. I commend the organization's tireless efforts to preserve and document the historical site and the stories of the lives that were forever changed while they were detained at the Tuna Canyon Detention Station (TCDS) during World War II.

At the onset of World War II, Presidential Proclamations 2525, 2526, and 2527 authorized the arrest and imprisonment of people deemed a threat to U.S. national security. The proclamations served as justification to arrest individuals of Japanese, German, and Italian ancestry along with extradited Japanese Peruvians and detain them without due process.

The U.S. Department of Justice subsequently appropriated a Civilian Conservation Corps camp a week after the bombing of Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941 which they would then transform into the detention station that we know today as TCDS. From December 16, 1941 to October 30, 1943, the Tuna Canyon Detention Station imprisoned over

2,000 individuals. These individuals included prominent businessmen, martial arts teachers, civic and religious leaders.

Today, the TCDS Coalition serves to educate the public about the site's historical significance, preserve the site and historic artifacts, and seek out the names and stories of detainees. I applaud the diligence of the TCDS Board of Directors and volunteers who have worked tirelessly to document biographies of TCDS detainees. Additionally, TCDS Coalition was the driving force behind the Los Angeles City Council recognizing the Tuna Canyon Detention Station as a Historic Cultural Monument on June 25, 2013.

With only the oak trees left standing, it's vital for present and future generations to be informed of these wartime atrocities to ensure that the same actions never take place again. It is my pleasure to congratulate the Tuna Canyon Detention Station Coalition on all they have accomplished, and I ask all members to join me in commending their efforts.

HONORING WORLD WAR II VETERAN ROLAND EUGENE DULLNIG

HON. JOAQUIN CASTRO

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 2, 2021

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of World War II veteran, Roland Eugene Dullnig, who hails from my hometown of San Antonio, Texas. Today marks Mr. Dullnig's 100th birthday. I am honored to recognize his milestone on this joyous day.

Roland Eugene Dullnig was born in San Antonio, Texas, on December 3, 1921. The eldest of three children, Mr. Dullnig graduated from Fox Tech High School whereafter he enlisted in U.S. Army Air Corp in 1942. Mr. Dullnig served as a Crew Chief with the 668th Squadron of the 416th Bombardment Group maintaining the A20 and the A26 light bomber aircraft. His 416th Bombardment Group participated in the battles of Normandy, Northern France, Ardennes, Rhineland, Central Europe, and Air Offensive Europe. Mr. Dullnig continued to serve until the end of the war, being discharged as a Technical Sergeant in January 1946.

Upon completion of military service, Mr. Dullnig returned to San Antonio and worked in the printing trade for 40 years. He was married to his wife, Evelyn, for almost 69 years having two children, Carolyn, and Ron. In February 2020, Mr. Dullnig was presented with the French Legion of Honor Medal given by the people of France to American Veterans who fought for the liberation of France during World War II. Today, Mr. Dullnig continues to reside in the family home in San Antonio.

Madam Speaker, please join me in recognizing World War II veteran, Mr. Roland Dullnig, on his 100th birthday. I thank Mr. Dullnig for his many years of service to our country and community. It is my hope that he is surrounded by loved ones on his special day.

HONORING HOSPITALITY PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR AWARD RECIPIENT BABETTE HUITT AND UNSUNG HERO AWARD RECIPIENT LINDA BROWN

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 2, 2021

Mr. HUDSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Babette Huitt for her recognition as Hospitality Professional of the Year and Linda Brown for her recognition as Unsung Hero by the Cabarrus County Convention and Visitors Bureau (CCCVB).

The Hospitality Professional of the Year Award is presented to an individual who contributes exceptional leadership and commitment to the hospitality industry. As Tours and STEAM Program Manager for CCCVB, Babette Huitt exhibited outstanding leadership and commitment to the industry by redesigning the Speedway Tour program to accommodate important COVID-19 Safety Protocols, and she provided necessary oversight to see the Bureau's STEAM program implemented in at-home and remote environments at both Fort Bragg and Camp LeJeune.

The Unsung Hero Award is presented by CCCVB to an individual who conducts indispensable duties behind the scenes to assure high-quality guest services. As a laundry attendant within the Housekeeping Department at the Great Wolf Lodge in Concord, North Carolina, Linda Brown has performed outstanding leadership and teamwork to see her duties executed acutely and efficiently. When she has time, she goes the extra mile to assist other attendants with their own tasks. Perhaps most impressively, Ms. Brown refuses to let her hearing deficiency inhibit her ability to work and has taught coworkers hand signals and sign language to assure coherent communication.

I would like to extend my most heartfelt appreciation to Ms. Huitt and Ms. Brown for their exemplary service to the hospitality industry in Cabarrus County. I know I speak for our entire community in wishing them continued success and happiness.

Madam Speaker, please join me today in congratulating Babette Huitt and Linda Brown for their recognition by the Cabarrus County Convention and Visitors Bureau.

RECOGNIZING FBI SPECIAL AGENT BRENDAN J. O'LEARY

HON. DARIN LAHOOD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 2, 2021

Mr. LAHOOD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate and honor the service of newly retired FBI Special Agent (SA) Brendan J. O'Leary. SA O'Leary dedicated 22 years of his life to the FBI and served his country with distinction. Brendan was born and raised in Chicago and received his undergraduate degree from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and his law degree from the John Marshall—UIC School of Law. Prior to joining the FBI, Brendan served honorably as an Assistant State's Attorney with the Cook County

State's Attorney's office prosecuting criminal cases. After being selected into the FBI, SA O'Leary spent most of his career in the Chicago Field office investigating and overseeing public corruption cases.

In 1999, SA O'Leary began his FBI career in the Las Vegas Division where he quickly established himself as a competent and hard-working agent. He was immediately assigned to a significant public corruption investigation in which business owners were bribing elected county commissioners and other public officials in return for official acts intended to hamper investigations of their businesses. The case was named "Operation G-Sting" and it ended up being the largest and most comprehensive public corruption case in the history of Nevada. In 2004, after a successful assignment in Las Vegas, SA O'Leary transferred to the Chicago Division and was assigned to a public corruption squad, where he used his experience to address the systemic corruption in the City of Chicago, Cook County, and the State of Illinois.

In 2012, SA O'Leary became the Supervisory Special Agent (SSA) for WC-2. As the SSA, he oversaw a number of high-profile public corruption investigations. These investigations included cases involving members of the U.S. Congress, the Illinois State Legislature, the Chicago City Council, and other local politicians. Over the last two years, he was the acting Assistant Special Agent in Charge over the White-Collar Branch, and not only oversaw several cases involving complex financial crimes, health care fraud, and money laundering investigations, but also very significant ongoing public corruption investigations. Throughout all of this, SA O'Leary continued to take an active role in cases, utilizing his experience and insight. He advocated on behalf of agents and programs and represented the FBI in a professional and intelligent manner when speaking to community groups or at school events. SA O'Leary not only had a passion for the public corruption program, but always followed the path of righteousness when fighting for the citizens of Chicago, the State of Illinois, and the United States of America. Agent O'Leary established a reputation for his relentless pursuit of justice and holding elected officials and government employees accountable under the rule of law.

Throughout the course of his 22 years, SA O'Leary was a reliable and steady leader who set a standard for excellence. Brendan J. O'Leary's professional accomplishments were achieved with the loving support of his wonderful wife Chris and their four beautiful daughters.

RECOGNIZING CHIEF JUSTICE EMERITUS THOMAS G. SAYLOR OF THE PENNSYLVANIA SUPREME COURT FOR HIS EARNING THE JUDGE ROBERT E. DAUER AWARD FOR JUDICIAL EXCELLENCE

HON. SCOTT PERRY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 2, 2021

Mr. PERRY. Madam Speaker, I am honored to commemorate the outstanding leadership and judicial excellence of Chief Justice Emeritus Thomas G. Saylor of the Pennsylvania

Supreme Court, for his earning the prestigious Judge Robert E. Dauer Award for Judicial Excellence on behalf of Amen Corner.

Amen Corner is an organization designed to foster relationships amongst people from all walks of life and honor those who have devoted their lives and careers to improving our communities, and serving Pittsburgh since 1870. Amen Corner has a long tradition of honoring members of the Judiciary and Bar Association of Allegheny County and the Commonwealth.

Chief Justice Emeritus Saylor graduated from the University of Virginia in 1969, followed by his graduation from Columbia Law School in 1972, before he began his career in general practice and prosecutor with Somerset County. He later earned a Master of Laws from the University of Virginia School of Law in 2004. His decades of service and tireless work in support of law and the Commonwealth also earned him honorary degrees from the Widener University School of Law and Shippensburg University of Pennsylvania.

Prior to his election as a justice of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, Chief Justice Saylor served as the First Assistant District Attorney with Somerset County before being named the Director of the Pennsylvania Bureau of Consumer Protection. He then served as the First Deputy Attorney General for the Commonwealth, preceding his election to the Pennsylvania Superior Court in 1993.

Chief Justice Saylor served as a Justice of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania in 1997, prior to being named Chief Justice of the Court in January 2015. Throughout his time on the Court, he has written more than 400 main opinions and demonstrated the collaborative and effective leadership of an independent judiciary.

For Chief Justice Emeritus Thomas G. Saylor's decades of service to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the United States of America, I am honored to recognize his achievements and contributions, and congratulate him on earning the Judge Robert E. Dauer Award for Judicial Leadership and Excellence.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 2, 2021

Ms. LEE of California. Madam Speaker, on Wednesday December 1, 2021, I was unavoidably detained and unable to cast my vote on three roll call votes. Had I been present, I would have voted "Yes" on roll call 389, passage of H.R. 2685; I would have voted "Yes" on roll call 390, passage of H.R. 4045; and I would have voted "Yes" on roll call 391, passage of H.R. 4055.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF DAVE FOSTER

HON. DIANA HARSHBARGER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 2, 2021

Mrs. HARSHBARGER. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Lieutenant Colonel (Ret.)

Dave Foster who is retiring as the superintendent of the Andrew Johnson National Historic Site and the Andrew Johnson National Cemetery in Greeneville, Tennessee.

Before joining the National Park Service in 2009, he served twenty-one years in the United States Marine Corps with deployments to Kuwait, Iraq, and the Horn of Africa in support of the global war on terrorism. While in the military, he held leadership assignments at the company and battalion levels and retired at the rank of lieutenant colonel.

Dave began his National Park Service career as a subject-to-furlough maintenance worker at the Blue Ridge Parkway and has since served as a maintenance worker, utility systems operator, maintenance supervisor and facility manager on the Parkway. In 2014, he was selected by his peers to receive the class leadership award upon graduation from the Facility Manager Leaders Program. He attributes his success to the professional and dedicated teams he has worked with both at the Blue Ridge Parkway and the Andrew Johnson Historical Site. He said, "as a veteran, I am especially humbled by the privilege of overseeing one of the final resting places for our nation's heroes."

Born in western North Carolina, Dave holds a bachelor's degree in education from the University of South Carolina and a master's degree in national security and strategic studies from the Naval War College. He and his wife Terri reside in Bedford, VA, and they have two children: Autumn and Brian.

Madam Speaker, Dave Foster, has served our country faithfully, first as a Marine across the world and later as an exemplary employee and leader in our National Park Service. I thank him for his service and congratulate him on his upcoming retirement in January of 2022.

RECOGNIZING THE ROTARY CLUB OF HARTFORD CITY

HON. VICTORIA SPARTZ

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 2, 2021

Mrs. SPARTZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Rotary Club of Hartford City as it celebrates its centennial anniversary.

Since receiving its charter in 1920, the Rotary Club of Hartford City has been serving Hartford City, Blackford County, and greater Indiana through time, hard work, and resources.

While its 100th year celebration was delayed by the pandemic, the club continued to place "Service Above Self" over the last year and half. Local organizations like this club have been the backbone of our society through this trial allowing America to weather this storm together.

I thank the Rotary Club of Hartford City for continuing to "serve best".

Again, my congratulations to the Rotary Club of Hartford City. Hoosiers are grateful for its kindness and generosity over the last century, and for centuries to come.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF PASTOR BYRON JONES

HON. LANCE GOODEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 2, 2021

Mr. GOODEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Pastor Byron (Boonie) Jones of First Baptist Church in Gun Barrel City, Texas, on his retirement. During his thirty-five years of service, Byron has been a stalwart of the community, always putting others' needs before his own.

Byron first joined the Ministry in 1979 at Eastside Baptist Church in Rusk, Texas and served on staff for three years before joining as Youth Minister at First Baptist Church, Gresham. In 1985, the First Baptist Church Gun Barrel City was fortunate to have Byron join as Pastor. When Byron first came to Gun Barrel City, the church was meeting in a city council meeting room until they were able to build a house of worship. Now, the First Baptist Church in Gun Barrel City, Texas, is one of the largest churches in Henderson County.

After 35 years of service, Pastor Byron Jones more than deserves a peaceful retirement, and I wish him the best.

I commend Pastor Byron Jones for his dedication to serving the people of Texas, and I know the First Baptist Church in Gun Barrel City will be sad to see him go.

RECOGNIZING SPECIALIST LUCAS SCHMITZ'S SERVICE TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

HON. MICHELLE FISCHBACH

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 2, 2021

Mrs. FISCHBACH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Retired Specialist Lucas Schmitz who sustained severe injuries while heroically serving the United States as part of the Minnesota Army National Guard.

Specialist Schmitz has spent his life serving others. In 2005, Schmitz was deployed to Iraq with the Minnesota Army National Guard as an Infantryman with the Second Combined Arms Battalion of the 34th Infantry Division. On July 25, 2006, the vehicle that Specialist Schmitz's was riding in hit an IED, forcing them to vacate it. While running to the next vehicle, Specialist Schmitz was injured by stepping on a second IED and tragically lost his right leg.

Upon his medical discharge from the Minnesota Army National Guard, Schmitz moved back to his hometown of Perham, Minnesota where he now lives with his wife, Tina, and three children. He has continued with his commitment to helping others by teaching special education at Perham Public Schools. Surrounded by the support of his family and community, Schmitz will receive a new home from the organization Homes For Our Troops that is specifically designed to accommodate the needs resulting from his injuries.

I am eternally grateful for Specialist Schmitz's dedication to our Nation, and the sacrifices the men and women in the military make every day as they risk their lives to keep us safe. On behalf of Minnesota and the

United States House of Representatives, I thank him for his service.

**PLUM HOLLOW COUNTRY CLUB
100TH ANNIVERSARY**

HON. BRENDA L. LAWRENCE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 2, 2021

Mrs. LAWRENCE. Madam Speaker, today I recognize the historic Plum Hollow Country Club which has been a staple in the Metro Detroit community as one of the premier country clubs in the Midwest since 1921, and is now celebrating its 100th anniversary.

Plum Hollow Country Club has been known to have a world-class golf course, playing host to several national events and tournaments including its very first PGA Championship in 1947. For a century, Plum Hollow Country Club has worked tirelessly to provide an inclusive environment for members of all skill levels to enjoy a great golf experience.

Plum Hollow Country Club continuously works to offer a variety of member options to provide a comprehensive and diverse club for networking and more. Plum Hollow also provides a strong community service element through its well-known Caddie Program that allows for younger generations to grow and learn in the game of golf.

Plum Hollow Country Club is indeed an integral part of the Southfield community, a place that noticeably touched the lives of each member over the last 100 years in concrete ways and will continue to do so for years to come.

On this momentous occasion, I wish to proclaim Plum Hollow Country Club as an American Landmark Site of Distinction. On behalf of the United States of America, I salute them for their many years of faithful service and celebrating 100 years.

**SAFEGUARD TRIBAL OBJECTS OF
PATRIMONY ACT OF 2021**

SPEECH OF

HON. ED CASE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 1, 2021

Mr. CASE. Madam Speaker. I rise today in support of H.R. 2930, the Safeguard Tribal Objects of Patrimony (STOP) Act, which I co-sponsored, especially as it ensures we fully include Native Hawaiians in all aspects of cultural heritage repatriation.

The STOP Act reauthorizes and makes important improvements to the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) to protect the cultural patrimony of our Indigenous communities, including Native Hawaiians, the indigenous peoples of our country who originate in Hawaii. This bipartisan effort, spearheaded by Chair TERESA LEGER FERNANDEZ and Ranking Member DON YOUNG of our House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Indigenous Peoples, on which I also serve, will assist our efforts to ensure the survival of Native artifacts for generations to come.

I also wish to memorialize for the record our committee discussions assuring that Native

Hawaiians are directly involved in all cultural heritage repatriation processes mandated by Congress under NAGPRA, including full and direct presence on the NAGPRA Review Committee.

Religious practices of American Indians, Alaska Natives and Native Hawaiians are an integral part of their culture, tradition and heritage. They also serve as a basis of Native identity and value systems. Congress has established a long-standing policy under the American Indian Religious Freedom Act (AIRFA) of 1978 (Pub. L. No. 95-341) and other legislation (25 U.S.C. § 1996) to protect and preserve the inherent right of freedom to believe, express and exercise the traditional religions of American Indians, Alaska Natives and Native Hawaiians.

Under NAGPRA, a review committee that consists of seven members is appointed by the Secretary of the Interior and tasked with several responsibilities, including consultation with Indian Tribes and Native Hawaiian organizations, working with the Secretary to develop regulations to carry out NAGPRA and making recommendations regarding future care of repatriated cultural items. At least two of these members must be traditional Indian religious leaders. The use of "traditional Indian religious leader" in NAGPRA (25 U.S.C. 3006) is consistent with the policy described in AIRFA (42 U.S.C. § 1996) and includes and should continue to include all traditional Native American religious leaders, including Native Hawaiians, as defined by the term "Native American" found at 25 U.S.C. § 3001.

Ensuring the eligibility of any American Indian, Alaska Native or Native Hawaiian traditional religious leader to be nominated to serve on the NAGPRA Review Committee is critical to full implementation of the letter and spirit of NAGPRA and the preservation and safe return of our precious indigenous cultural heritage.

Mahalo.

**HONORING THE LANSING CHAPTER
OF THE DAUGHTERS OF THE
AMERICAN REVOLUTION**

HON. ELISSA SLOTKIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 2, 2021

Mrs. SLOTKIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 125th anniversary of the Lansing Chapter of the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution.

Originally chartered with just 17 members on December 3, 1896, the organization now lists 135 women actively committed to promoting patriotism, preserving American history, and securing a better future for our nation's children through education.

Throughout its existence, the DAR ladies—as they affectionately call themselves—have supported civic works throughout the Greater Lansing area. In 2007, the Lansing DAR chapter supported WKAR in the making of the award-winning documentary, "The War: Michigan Voices," a local companion to the landmark Ken Burns series.

They often present flags to new American citizens and deliver copies of the Pledge of Allegiance to local schools. Service is an important common thread among the Lansing DAR

ladies, with many of them serving or having served our country in the armed forces. In addition, they recognize a top cadet each year from the Army ROTC and Air Force ROTC programs at Michigan State University, as well as the local U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps.

The Lansing chapter has itself been recognized for its work in the community—in 2000, it won Michigan Outstanding Chapter Regent at the state level and was awarded National Outstanding School Chair at the DAR's national meeting, the Continental Congress, in 2006.

Today, after more than a century of uplifting each other and the Michiganders who call Lansing home, the Chapter continues to support community service, good citizenship, scholarship, veterans assistance, literacy, and so much more. In support of Wreaths Across America, you can consistently find Lansing Chapter members laying wreaths at veterans' graves, furthering their mission of "Remember, Teach, and Honor."

Madam Speaker, the Lansing Chapter of the Daughter of the American Revolution has been remembering, teaching, and honoring for 125 years. It's my great privilege today to celebrate them by submitting these words to the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD so that future generations—those in the 125 years to come—may learn about their dedicated service to others.

**HONORING NANCY PARRA-QUINLAN AS ARIZONA'S 2022 TEACHER
OF THE YEAR**

HON. GREG STANTON

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 2, 2021

Mr. STANTON. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor and congratulate Mrs. Nancy Parra-Quinlan for being named the 2022 Arizona Teacher of the Year by the Arizona Educational Foundation. Mrs. Parra-Quinlan, a 7th and 8th grade teacher at Kino Junior High in the Mesa Public Schools district, has inspired her students over her 27-year career to reach for the stars and create a better and brighter future for our state.

School year after school year, Mrs. Parra-Quinlan has distinguished herself as a uniquely gifted and hardworking educator. She has revolutionized STEM education in the Mesa Public School District and has selflessly served our community both inside and outside of the classroom. Her lessons expose her students to valuable real-world skills in a rapidly evolving technology industry throughout Arizona. Mrs. Parra-Quinlan has sponsored and directed incredible programs like the STEM Institute for Manufacturing and Innovation, and Mesa Public School's Aerospace Academy. Through it all, she finds time to volunteer with the Civil Air Patrol as a statewide Assistant Director of Aerospace Education and with the 305th Squadron at Falcon Field in Mesa as the Aerospace Education Office.

Mrs. Parra-Quinlan is an exemplary advocate for girls, students of color, and all students who are underrepresented in STEM, and is helping create a more diverse and equitable future for Arizona. By innovating and expanding the kinds of courses and activities offered at Mesa Public Schools, she opens new

doors of opportunity for her students every day—even before they begin high school. She plans to spend a year of service as an Arizona Teacher of the Year continuing her mission of getting more of our students involved in STEM and making the field more inclusive and representative of our ever diverse and vibrant community.

I am beyond proud to honor Mrs. Parra-Quinlan for her remarkable service and astounding legacy at Kino Junior High School. Mrs. Parra-Quinlan cares deeply about her work, students, coworkers, and our state. She chose to become a teacher to inspire the next generation and change the lives of her students—and we are all grateful for her work as a teacher, role model, and mentor. I wish her and her students the very best as she continues to innovate, inspire, and shape a promising future for the STEM field, and the state of Arizona.

HONORING JOHN KARRAS AS
IOWAN OF THE WEEK

HON. CYNTHIA AXNE

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 2, 2021

Mrs. AXNE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the co-founder of RAGBRAI John Karras as Iowan of the Week. RAGBRAI is the world's oldest, largest, and longest recreational bicycling tour event, and it is a beloved Iowa tradition. John, who was a feature writer for the Des Moines Register, took his first ride across Iowa with some friends in 1973. They chronicled their journey, and that trip sparked the inspiration for what is now known as RAGBRAI—an acronym for the Register's Annual Great Bicycle Ride Across Iowa.

John died on November 10, 2021, but the bicycle ride he helped create will continue in Iowa in 2022 and for many more years. RAGBRAI attracts 15,000 people to Iowa every summer, and allows visitors to see the state's beautiful cities, towns, counties, and countryside while riding their bikes an average of 468 miles between the Missouri and Mississippi rivers.

RAGBRAI generates more than \$364.8 million annually for the State of Iowa. The week-long event also brings in nearly \$25 million in direct spending, which means towns that are lucky enough to have RAGBRAI ride through see upwards of \$3 million a day in tourism spending. That money means so much to the Iowa towns that host RAGBRAI each year, and to the vendors that help support the bicycle ride.

The ride does more than raise money for our great state. It brings bicyclists from all over Iowa, the nation, and the world together to share their love of their favorite sport and pastime. It has created friendly rivalries between news organizations as they compete to see who can eat pies the fastest, and good laughs for everyone as the bicyclists have come up with some memorably humorous team names throughout the years.

I've had the pleasure of riding RAGBRAI and can honestly say there's no experience quite like it. I loved spending time in rural areas along the route, meeting Iowans and out-of-state riders to hear their stories, and the

physical challenge of a cross-state ride. You have to push yourself through the unpredictable weather of an Iowa summer and the hilly landscape, but you're rewarded with seeing and experiencing the state's beauty from a unique perspective. RAGBRAI is a great way to connect with family, friends, and strangers alike while making memories that last a lifetime. John leaves a lasting legacy through the creation of this iconic event.

John certainly didn't know what RAGBRAI would grow into when he took his first bicycle ride across the state, but I am so thankful he went out anyway and tried something new. Iowa summers would not be the same without this phenomenal tradition and John will be missed by everyone who knows and loves RAGBRAI. It is my pleasure to honor John Karras as Iowan of the Week.

HONORING THE 100TH BIRTHDAY
OF MIRIAM KELLER SIEFKEN

HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 2, 2021

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate the 100th birthday of Miriam Keller Siefken. Born on December 2, 1921, Mrs. Siefken grew up in Abington, Pennsylvania and was a graduate of Abington High School. She then raised her three children, Barbara, Edward and Larry with her late husband, Edward A. Siefken. Edward was a United States Army Veteran and served in the 9th Armored Division and the 52nd Armored Infantry Battalion. He also served at the Battle of the Bulge and Remagen Bridge and attained the rank of Sergeant. Together they raised a wonderful family. She is a proud grandmother of four as well as a great grandmother of three.

Today, our community is celebrating Mrs. Siefken's birthday at Neshaminy Manor. We wish her well in the upcoming year and for many years to come. I ask that my colleagues join me in wishing a Happy Birthday to Mrs. Siefken and a profound thank you for her contributions to our community.

RECOGNIZING MR. LARRY J. MILLER'S RETIREMENT FROM
PEOPLESBANK UPON HIS 50
YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE

HON. SCOTT PERRY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 2, 2021

Mr. PERRY. Madam Speaker, I am honored to recognize Mr. Larry J. Miller's retirement upon his 50 years of dedication and service to PeoplesBank, a Codorus Valley Company and its community. On December 31, 2021, Mr. Miller will retire from the Codorus Valley Bancorp, Inc. Board of Directors, the parent company of PeoplesBank.

On March 1, 1971, Larry joined PeoplesBank (then known as Peoples Bank of Glen Rock) as a management trainee. He was the youngest person to serve as a bank president in Pennsylvania when he became President of the bank at age 30 in 1981. He served

in that role until 2016. In addition, he has served as director, President and Chief Executive Officer of Codorus Valley Bancorp, Inc. from 1986 to October 1, 2021. His 50 years of service to PeoplesBank, the community and the banking industry has been nothing short of remarkable.

When Larry Miller was hired, the bank had three branch locations and managed \$23 million in assets. During his tenure, the bank's assets grew to over \$2 billion. He led PeoplesBank's growth to become the largest bank with headquarters in York County. As CEO, he led the opening of 25, the relocation of four, the combining of one and the closure of three locations. In addition, he oversaw the purchase of two insurance companies, the creation of the mortgage and trust divisions, the development of corporate and administrative centers and the acquisition of four branch banks in Maryland. Fourteen limited-service facilities were also opened throughout his tenure.

His dedication to and impact on York County is evident through his active involvement in the community, as he serves on various non-profit boards of directors in leadership capacities. Throughout his tenure, he has served as the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the United Way of York County, the York County Economic Development Corporation, YorkCounts, the Cultural Alliance of York County, and Wellspan Heath System.

Larry has been honored for his achievements and contributions through several recognition awards, including the York County Economic Alliance's Business Achievement Award, the Southern School District Foundation's distinguished Leader Award, the 2021 Distinguished Humanitarian Award Honoree by Penn-Mar Human Services, and his induction into the Central Penn Business Hall of Fame.

I am proud to honor Mr. Larry J. Miller and recognize his important contributions to our communities throughout his five decades of leadership in York County and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. I wish him God's many blessings as he embarks upon his next adventure.

REMEMBERING FLOYD NESSE, A
LIFELONG ADVOCATE FOR NEW
JERSEY'S DISABILITY COMMUNITY

HON. MIKE SHERRILL

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 2, 2021

Ms. SHERRILL. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Floyd Nesse for his lifelong service to individuals with disabilities in NJ-11 and beyond.

Mr. Nesse organized efforts throughout New Jersey to reduce barriers and broaden protections for people with disabilities. He was particularly committed to expanding access to fulfilling and accommodating employment opportunities. He brought the concerns of the disability community to the attention of the federal government, traveling down here to our nation's capital to advocate for legislation to improve the quality of life for those with disabilities.

Mr. Nesse was deeply admired by his peers and was known for working both

empathetically and effectively. He was recognized for his service in 2019 and was awarded the Unsung Hero Award from Inroads to Opportunities and the Larry Barker Spirit of State Use Award from the State Use Programs Association.

Over the course of his career, Mr. Nesse served as the Executive Director of the Edison Sheltered Workshop, the President and CEO of the Center for Vocational Rehabilitation, and most recently as the Vice President of Government Affairs for ACCSES New Jersey.

Beyond his advocacy, Mr. Nesse was a caring husband, father, and grandfather, finding great joy in spending time with his family. He was also a man of deep faith, and on Sundays, you could find him with a guitar in hand leading the worship team at his local congregation.

Floyd Nesse passed away on October 19, 2021. His legacy will live on in his family and in the lives of all he served. I am grateful for all Mr. Nesse did to ensure we live in more inclusive communities. He will be dearly missed.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MIKE BOST

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 2, 2021

Mr. BOST. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and missed one vote on December 1, 2021.

Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 390.

HONORING SYDNEY NOEL BURKS

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 2, 2021

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a tenacious and ambitious young lady, Sydney Noel Burks.

Sydney is a Sophomore at Hinds Community College-Utica Campus majoring in Chemistry/Pre-Pharmacy. She was a May 2020 graduate of Park Place Christian Academy (PPCA), where she graduated as a Highest Honor graduate with a 4.0 GPA. During her time at PPCA, she was inducted into the National Honor Society and served as Secretary of the Beta Club.

Sydney also believes in giving back to the community and helping those who are less fortunate. Her service and leadership have not only given her experiences she will cherish for a lifetime but has also enabled her to become an advocate for others and to promote issues that are of importance. Some of the community service events she was involved in during high school and continue to be involved includes the following:

We Will Go—Organized community closet and assisted the neighbors with bagging groceries and clothing and picked up trash and debris around the city;

Stewpot—Assisted with packing and serving lunches;

Feed the Need—Worked as a team member to pack and bag food to later be shipped to those who are food insecure;

Feed the Hungry—Talked to, prayed with, and assisted with serving lunch to those who were hungry in Poindexter Park;

Operation Christmas Child (Shoebbox Processing Center in Texas)—Worked with a team to pack shoeboxes and ensure that the items in the shoeboxes met the safety requirements to be shipped to the children who needed them; and

The Little Lighthouse—Worked with special needs children by assisting teachers with primary lessons, feeding the children lunch, and supervising recess. Also assisted with creating 'Thank You' cards for their 5K race.

During Sydney's tenure at Hinds Community College-Utica Campus, she has maintained a cumulative 4.0 grade point average, and has been named a President's Scholar. She is currently a member of the Yearbook and Robotics Clubs. Sydney is a STEM student and is a member of the Louis Stokes Mississippi Alliance for Minority Participation. In addition, Sydney is a Mississippi INBRE (Idea Network of Biomedical Research Excellence) Scholar. Mississippi IDeA Network of Biomedical Research Excellence (INBRE) is a network of colleges and universities, designed to build a biomedical research infrastructure in Mississippi. The mission is to reach out to Mississippians in order to improve health throughout the state and to engage talented researchers and students in biomedical research projects that will increase the state's research competitiveness as well as impact the health of citizens of Mississippi.

As an INBRE scholar, she had the opportunity to be an intern with My Brother's Keeper. She presented the outcomes of her work entitled, "Potential Mistrust of the COVID-19 Vaccine Among African-Americans in Mississippi," during the Mississippi Health Disparities Annual Conference 2021 in Biloxi, MS. Also, she is the Mississippi-Louisiana Vice-President of Phi Theta Kappa International College Honor Society. Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) recognizes the academic achievement of college students and provides opportunities for its members to grow as scholars and leaders.

Recently, Sydney was named as one of the Historically Black College and University Scholars.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Ms. Sydney Noel Burks for the outstanding work and accomplishments she has made thus far.

HONORING OUTSTANDING AMBASSADOR OF THE YEAR AWARD RECIPIENT NORTH CAROLINA SENATOR PAUL NEWTON

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 2, 2021

Mr. HUDSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor North Carolina Senator Paul Newton for his recognition as Outstanding Ambassador of the Year by the Cabarrus County Convention and Visitors Bureau.

Outstanding Ambassador of the Year is presented by the Cabarrus County Convention and Visitors Bureau to an individual who represents Cabarrus County by providing exceptional service to visitors. Working in coordina-

tion with the North Carolina Travel Industry Association, Senator Newton's leadership effectuated the inclusion of a specific provision in House Bill 196 that makes tourism development authorities in North Carolina eligible for the federal Payroll Protection Program (PPP). This quick and impactful response to the economic struggles brought on by the COVID-19 Pandemic has effectively reduced layoffs and allowed businesses in the hospitality and tourism industries to remain economically stable so they may continue providing services to visitors and all members of their communities.

I would like to extend my most heartfelt appreciation to Senator Newton for his exemplary service to the tourism and hospitality industries in Cabarrus County and North Carolina as a whole. It is an honor and a privilege to serve and represent the people of Cabarrus County by his side. I know I speak for our entire community in wishing him continued success and happiness.

Madam Speaker, please join me today in congratulating Senator Paul Newton as the Cabarrus County Convention and Visitors Bureau Outstanding Ambassador of the Year Award recipient and wish him well as he continues to address the needs of his constituency.

HONORING DARIN JOHNS

HON. AUGUST PFLUGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 2, 2021

Mr. PFLUGER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to offer sympathy and prayer to the community of Andrews, as well as the family of Darin Johns, who was tragically killed in a bus crash while traveling with the Andrews High School Band to a Mustangs playoff game two weeks ago.

Darin Johns was the beloved band director for Andrews High School. In the weeks since the accident, we have seen an outpouring of testimonies about Mr. Johns from former students, friends, colleagues, and other band directors across the entire state of Texas.

As I learn more about the life that Mr. Johns led, I am continually encouraged by the quality of service that he gave to his community and the quantity of people whose lives he touched.

Mr. Johns was an active member of the Andrews community who dedicated his life to his faith, loved his wife Karen and family and friends deeply, and invested in his natural talent and deep love of music. He was a gifted musician who could play almost any instrument he touched. In his free time, he played in a Christian band and directed the church praise band as an active member of the Calvary Baptist Church.

Mr. Johns' deepest passion was encouraging the younger generations. For over 30 years, he taught others to love music as a high school band director. Over his impressive tenure, Mr. Johns led three different high school marching bands to the State Marching Contest. He lent all his time and energy to building up the dreams and talents of those around him.

Andrews ISD and our communities across West Texas are mourning the loss of Mr. Johns.

Camille and I are sending our support and prayers to Andrews and Mr. Johns' family.

RECOGNIZING BONNY CLARK ON
BEING NAMED A SAGAMORE OF
THE WABASH

HON. VICTORIA SPARTZ

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 2, 2021

Mrs. SPARTZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor my constituent Bonny Clark of Pendleton, Indiana, on being named a Sagamore of the Wabash. The Sagamore of the Wabash is one of the highest civilian honors the Governor of Indiana can bestow upon citizens. Bonny is the most recent recipient of this prestigious award.

Bonny has been a selfless servant to the people of central Indiana and has had an indelible and personal impact on countless Hoosiers. Receiving this high honor is only a small reward for the great amount she has done for her neighbors and community. Bonny is an inspiration to others to serve, sacrifice, and get involved in meaningful ways at the local level.

I join Governor Holcomb and our fellow Hoosiers in congratulating Bonny Clark on this prestigious recognition.

**GOVERNOR'S AWARD FOR
EXCELLENCE IN GLOBAL TRADE**

HON. J. FRENCH HILL

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 2, 2021

Mr. HILL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the companies ECOJOHN and Leather Brothers, recipients of the Governor's Award for Excellence in Global Trade.

This award recognizes companies that have experienced success in international markets

and hold high standards of exporting excellence.

ECOJOHN is a manufacturing company from North Little Rock, specializing in wastewater management solutions.

Leather Brothers are third-generation leather workers from Conway who manufacture high quality pet products.

Both of these companies overcame adversity caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and continued to succeed in a global market.

I am proud of our local companies, their success, and their impact on our global markets.

**LEE ELDER: GROUNDBREAKING
GOLFER, MAKING A FAIR WAY
ON THE FAIRWAYS**

HON. KWEISI MFUME

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 2, 2021

Mr. MFUME. Madam Speaker, throughout my years in Congress, I have found it is not often that someone is as impactful or influential in breaking the color barrier in a sport or changing the culture of country clubs as the person for whom I stand today. I am honored to rise to recognize someone who found a more fair way on the fairways of professional golf; from Pensacola, Florida to Johannesburg, South Africa all the way to Augusta National and many courses in between, this groundbreaking golfer recently passed away. This incredible ambassador for the game was a gentleman both on the links and in real life, Mr. Lee Elder.

With 16 professional tour wins, including his breakthrough at the Monsanto Open in Pensacola in 1974, Lee Elder was the first African American to win a PGA Tour event. Mr. Elder

was, however, a champion in more ways than one. He was a Black man born in the Jim Crow South who taught himself how to play golf on segregated courses. Working as a caddy he surmounted the hardships of being orphaned at a young age. In his early golfing days in the United Golf Association, Lee gained prominence for his skill and approach to the game.

Much like Jackie Robinson in Major League Baseball, Mr. Elder who chose to stand against the stain of racism, had to endure many indignities. He broke through on the PGA Tour in 1968 as a 34-year-old golfer. From changing clothes in parking lots because Black people were not allowed in the clubhouse to getting death threats for playing in the Masters in Augusta, Georgia, he overcame obstacles. He went to South Africa during the height of apartheid. He protested PGA rules allowing golfers to play at Sun City, Bophutswana, an outpost for segregation. He spoke out against country clubs which still excluded Black players as late as 1990. Mr. Elder helped Black golfers for whom he created Summer Youth Development Programs. All these acts define a champion of civil rights.

I stand today, Madam Speaker, for Lee Elder, not only for his dedication to the game of golf but also for his outstanding commitment in paving the way for people of color to pursue their passions in both their studies and their sports. Using his fame and fortune to establish a foundation to help Black students and the United Negro College Fund is also an important part of his legacy. Standing on the shoulders of such an athlete shows us what we all know in our hearts to be true: without the likes of Lee Elder, there might not be a Tiger Woods nor entry into Country Clubs. Mr. Elder's efforts yielded a fairer way on all fairways across this land.

Daily Digest

HIGHLIGHTS

Senate passed H.R. 6119, Further Extending Government Funding Act.

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S8875–S8917

Measures Introduced: Thirteen bills and three resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 3300–3312, and S. Res. 465–467. **Pages S8911–12**

Measures Reported:

S. 1402, to amend the Native American Languages Act to ensure the survival and continuing vitality of Native American languages. (S. Rept. No. 117–45)

S. 989, to establish a Native American language resource center in furtherance of the policy set forth in the Native American Languages Act, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. (S. Rept. No. 117–46) **Page S8911**

Measures Passed:

Further Extending Government Funding Act: By 69 yeas to 28 nays (Vote No. 477), Senate passed H.R. 6119, making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2022, by the order of the Senate of Thursday, December 2, 2021, 60 Senators having voted in the affirmative, and after taking action on the following amendment proposed thereto: **Pages S8904–06**

Rejected:

By 48 yeas to 50 nays (Vote No. 476), Marshall/Lee Amendment No. 4868, to prohibit the use of Federal funds for implementing or enforcing COVID–19 vaccine mandates. **Pages S8905–06**

Measures Considered:

National Defense Authorization Act: Senate continued consideration of H.R. 4350, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2022 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, taking action on the following amendments proposed thereto:

Pages S8875–76, S8876–81

Pending:

Reed/Inhofe Modified Amendment No. 3867, in the nature of a substitute. **Page S8875**

Reed Amendment No. 4775 (to Amendment No. 3867), to modify effective dates relating to the Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Space Acquisition and Integration and the Service Acquisition Executive of the Department of the Air Force for Space Systems and Programs. **Page S8875**

Motion to Discharge Rollins Nomination: Pursuant to S. Res. 27, Committee on the Judiciary being tied on the question of reporting, the Majority Leader made the motion to discharge the Committee on the Judiciary from further consideration of the nomination of Rachael S. Rollins, of Massachusetts, to be United States Attorney for the District of Massachusetts, Department of Justice. **Pages S8882–97**

By 50 yeas to 47 nays (Vote No. EX. 475), Senate agreed to the motion to discharge the nomination from the Committee on the Judiciary. Subsequently, the nomination was placed on the Executive Calendar pursuant to the provisions of S. Res. 27, relative to Senate procedure in the 117th Congress. **Page S8897**

Rosenworcel Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Jessica Rosenworcel, of Connecticut, to be a Member of the Federal Communications Commission. **Page S8906**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, and pursuant to the unanimous-consent agreement of Thursday, December 2, 2021, a vote on cloture will occur at 5:30 p.m., on Monday, December 6, 2021. **Page S8906**

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S8906**

Hamilton Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Deirdre Hamilton, of the District of Columbia, to be a Member of the National Mediation Board. **Pages S8906–07**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of Jessica Rosenworcel, of Connecticut, to be a Member of the Federal Communications Commission. **Page S8907**

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. **Page S8906**

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S8906**

Magnus Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Chris Magnus, of Arizona, to be Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Department of Homeland Security. **Page S8907**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of Deirdre Hamilton, of the District of Columbia, to be a Member of the National Mediation Board. **Page S8907**

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. **Page S8907**

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S8907**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that the motions to invoke cloture filed during the session of Thursday, December 2, 2021, ripen at 5:30 p.m., on Monday, December 6, 2021. **Page S8907**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that at approximately 3:00 p.m., on Monday, December 6, 2021, Senate resume consideration of the nomination of Jessica Rosenworcel, of Connecticut, to be a Member of the Federal Communications Commission. **Page S8917**

Nominations Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nominations:

By 50 yeas to 49 nays (Vote No. EX. 474), Brian Eddie Nelson, of California, to be Under Secretary for Terrorism and Financial Crimes. **Pages S8881–82**

C.B. Sullenberger III, of Texas, for the rank of Ambassador during his tenure of service as Representative of the United States of America on the

Council of the International Civil Aviation Organization. **Page S8900**

Larry D. Turner, of North Carolina, to be Inspector General, Department of Labor.

Sandra D. Bruce, of Delaware, to be Inspector General, Department of Education. **Page S8907**

Nominations Received: Senate received the following nominations:

Jerome H. Powell, of Maryland, to be Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System for a term of four years.

Nani A. Coloretti, of California, to be Deputy Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

Shalanda D. Young, of Louisiana, to be Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

Jodi Beth Herman, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development.

Steven H. Fagin, of New Jersey, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Yemen.

Bidtah N. Becker, of Arizona, to be a Member of the National Council on the Arts for a term expiring September 3, 2022.

Estrellita Bograd Brodsky, of New York, to be a Member of the National Council on the Humanities for a term expiring January 26, 2026.

Gretchen Gonzalez Davidson, of Michigan, to be a Member of the National Council on the Arts for a term expiring September 3, 2022.

Vanessa Northington Gamble, of the District of Columbia, to be a Member of the National Council on the Humanities for a term expiring January 26, 2026.

David Anthony Hajdu, of New York, to be a Member of the National Council on the Humanities for a term expiring January 26, 2026.

Jerry Kang, of California, to be a Member of the National Council on the Humanities for a term expiring January 26, 2026.

Kathryn Kahrs Matthew, of South Carolina, to be a Member of the National Council on the Humanities for a term expiring January 26, 2026.

Glenna Laureen Wright-Gallo, of Nevada, to be Assistant Secretary for Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, Department of Education.

Routine lists in the Army and Navy. **Page S8917**

Nomination Discharged: The following nomination were discharged from further committee consideration and placed on the Executive Calendar:

Rachael S. Rollins, of Massachusetts, to be United States Attorney for the District of Massachusetts for the term of four years, which was sent to the Senate on July 26, 2021, from the Senate Committee on the Judiciary. **Page S8897**

Messages from the House:

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Measures Referred:	Page S8909
Measures Placed on the Calendar:	Page S8909
Executive Communications:	Pages S8909–11
Executive Reports of Committees:	Page S8911
Notice of a Tie Vote Under S. Res. 27:	Page S8907
Additional Cosponsors:	Pages S8912–13
Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions:	Pages S8913–14
Additional Statements:	Pages S8908–09
Amendments Submitted:	Pages S8914–16
Authorities for Committees to Meet:	Pages S8916–17
Privileges of the Floor:	Page S8917
Record Votes: Four record votes were taken today. (Total—477)	Pages S8881–82, S8897, S8906

Adjournment: Senate convened at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 9:29 p.m., until 3 p.m. on Monday, December 6, 2021. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today's Record on page S8917.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: Committee ordered favorably reported the nominations of Alanna McCargo, of Virginia, to be President, Government National Mortgage Association, and Elizabeth de Leon Bhargava, of New York, to be an Assistant Secretary, both of the Department of Housing and Urban Development, and Arun Venkataraman, of the District of Columbia, to be Assistant Secretary of Commerce and Director General of the United States and Foreign Commercial Service.

LEGISLATION

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: Committee concluded a hearing to examine S. 1229, to modify the procedures for issuing special recreation permits for certain public land units, S. 1269, to require the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture to complete an interagency report on the effects of special recreation permits on environmental justice communities, S. 1616, to provide exceptions from permitting and fee requirements for content creation, regardless of distribution platform, including digital or analog video and digital or analog audio recording activities, conducted on land under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of Agriculture and

the Secretary of the Interior, S. 1874, to promote innovative approaches to outdoor recreation on Federal land and to increase opportunities for collaboration with non-Federal partners, S. 2258, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to establish a Parks, Jobs, and Equity Program to support job creation, economic revitalization and park development for communities impacted by COVID-19, S. 2886, to amend title 54, United States Code, to authorize the donation and distribution of capes, horns, and antlers from wildlife management activities carried out on National Park System land, S. 2887, to codify the existing Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership Program of the National Park Service, S. 3264, to require the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture to develop long-distance bike trails on Federal land, and S. 3266, to improve recreation opportunities on, and facilitate greater access to, Federal public land, after receiving testimony from Senator Luján; Chris French, Deputy Chief, National Forest System, Forest Service, Department of Agriculture; Mark Lambrecht, Assistant Director, National Conservation Lands and Community Partnerships, Bureau of Land Management, and Reginald Chapple, Acting Assistant Director for Partnerships and Civic Engagement, National Park Service, both of the Department of the Interior; Fred Ferguson, Vista Outdoor, Anoka, Minnesota; and Jessica Turner, Outdoor Recreation Roundtable, Washington, D.C.

NOMINATIONS

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of Loren L. AliKhan, and John P. Howard III, both to be an Associate Judge of the District of Columbia Court of Appeals, and Adrienne Jennings Noti, to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia, after the nominees, who were introduced by Representative Holmes Norton, testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: Committee ordered favorably reported the nominations of Lisa M. Gomez, of New Jersey, to be an Assistant Secretary of Labor, James D. Rodriguez, of Texas, to be Assistant Secretary of Labor for Veterans' Employment and Training, Maria Rosario Jackson, of the District of Columbia, to be Chairperson of the National Endowment for the Arts, Shelly C. Lowe, of Arizona, to be Chairperson of the National Endowment for the Humanities, and Susan Harthill, of Maryland, to be a Member of the Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on the Judiciary: Committee ordered favorably reported the following business items:

S. 2340, to improve the safety and security of the Federal judiciary, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute; and

The nominations of Mary Katherine Dimke, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Washington, Maame Ewusi-Mensah Frimpong, to be United States District Judge for the Central District of California, Jennifer L. Thurston, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of California, Gabriel P. Sanchez, of California, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit, Samantha D. Elliott, to be United States District

Judge for the District of New Hampshire, Linda Lopez, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of California, Katherine Marie Menendez, to be United States District Judge for the District of Minnesota, Jinsook Ohta, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of California, David Herrera Urias, to be United States District Judge for the District of New Mexico, and Gregory K. Harris, to be United States Attorney for the Central District of Illinois, Philip R. Sellinger, to be United States Attorney for the District of New Jersey, Brandon B. Brown, of Louisiana, to be United States Attorney for the Western District of Louisiana, and Ronald C. Gathe, Jr., of Louisiana, to be United States Attorney for the Middle District of Louisiana, all of the Department of Justice.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 20 public bills, H.R. 6119–6138; and 6 resolutions, H. Res. 830–835, were introduced. **Pages H6908–09**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages H6910–11**

Report Filed: A report was filed today as follows:

H. Res. 829, providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 6119) making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2022, and for other purposes; and for other purposes (H. Rept. 117–201). **Page H6908**

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein she appointed Representative Tonko to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H6861**

Recess: The House recessed at 8:10 a.m. and reconvened at 10 a.m. **Page H6862**

Recess: The House recessed at 10:22 a.m. and reconvened at 12:37 p.m. **Page H6865**

Motion to Adjourn: Rejected the Roy motion to adjourn by a ye-and-nay vote of 200 yeas to 224 nays, Roll No. 394. **Page H6869**

Further Extending Government Act: The House passed H.R. 6119, making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2022, by a ye-and-nay vote of 221 yeas to 212 nays, Roll No. 399.

Subsequently, Representative Evans moved to reconsider the vote, and Representative DeLauro moved to table the motion to reconsider, which was

agreed to by a ye-and-nay vote of 217 yeas to 209 nays, Roll No. 400. **Pages H6872–91**

Rejected the Calvert motion to recommit the bill to the Committee on Appropriations by a ye-and-nay vote of 211 yeas to 219 nays, Roll No. 398. **Page H6889**

H. Res. 829, the rule providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 6119) was agreed to by a ye-and-nay vote of 219 yeas to 208 nays, Roll No. 396, after the previous question was ordered by a ye-and-nay vote of 218 yeas to 209 nays, Roll No. 395. Subsequently, Representative Roybal-Allard moved to reconsider the vote, and Representative McGovern moved to table the motion to reconsider, which was agreed to by a ye-and-nay vote of 217 yeas to 202 nays, Roll No. 397. **Pages H6865–69, H6869–72**

Suspension—Proceedings Resumed: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measure. Consideration began Wednesday, December 1st.

Safeguard Tribal Objects of Patrimony Act of 2021: H.R. 2930, amended, to enhance protections of Native American tangible cultural heritage, by a $\frac{2}{3}$ ye-and-nay vote of 364 yeas to 57 nays, Roll No. 401. **Pages H6891–92**

Quorum Calls—Votes: Eight ye-and-nay votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H6869, H6870, H6870–71, H6871–72, H6889, H6890, H6890–91, and H6891–92.

Adjournment: The House met at 8 a.m. and adjourned at 8:41 p.m.

Committee Meetings

MINDING THE GAP: HOW OPERATIONAL ENERGY CAN HELP US ADDRESS LOGISTICS CHALLENGES

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Readiness held a hearing entitled “Minding the Gap: How Operational Energy Can Help Us Address Logistics Challenges”. Testimony was heard from Lieutenant General Sam. C. Barrett, Joint Staff, Director for Logistics, J-4; Lieutenant General Duane A. Gamble, U.S. Army, Deputy Chief of Staff, G-4; Vice Admiral Rick Williamson, U.S. Navy, Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Fleet Readiness and Logistics, N-4; Lieutenant General Edward Banta, U.S. Marine Corps, Deputy Commandant, Installations and Logistics; and Lieutenant General Warren D. Berry, U.S. Air Force, Deputy Chief of Staff for Logistics, Engineering and Force Protection, A-4.

STRENGTHENING THE SAFETY NET FOR INJURED WORKERS

Committee on Education and Labor: Subcommittee on Workforce Protections held a hearing entitled “Strengthening the Safety Net for Injured Workers”. Testimony was heard from Representative Carbajal; Christopher J. Godfrey, Director, Office of Workers’ Compensation Programs, U.S. Department of Labor; and Thomas M. Costa, Director, Education, Workforce, and Income Security, Government Accountability Office.

THE OVERDOSE CRISIS: INTERAGENCY PROPOSAL TO COMBAT ILLICIT FENTANYL-RELATED SUBSTANCES

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Health held a hearing entitled “The Overdose Crisis: Interagency Proposal to Combat Illicit Fentanyl-Related Substances”. Testimony was heard from Kemp L. Chester, Assistant Director, Executive Office of the President, Office of National Drug Control Policy; Louis J. Milione, Principal Deputy Administrator, U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, U.S. Department of Justice; Lisa O. Monaco, Deputy Attorney General, U.S. Department of Justice; Douglas Throckmorton, M.D., Deputy Director for Regulatory Programs, Center for Drug Evaluation and Research, U.S. Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services; and Nora D. Volkow, M.D., Director, National Institute on Drug Abuse, National Institutes of Health, Department of Health and Human Services.

INNOVATIVE MUNICIPAL LEADERSHIP IN CENTRAL EUROPE: FOUNDING MEMBERS OF THE PACT OF FREE CITIES

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Subcommittee on Europe, Energy, the Environment, and Cyber held a hearing entitled “Innovative Municipal Leadership in Central Europe: Founding Members of the Pact of Free Cities”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

WHAT MORE PUBLIC LANDS LEASING MEANS FOR ACHIEVING U.S. CLIMATE TARGETS

Committee on Natural Resources: Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources held a hearing entitled “What More Public Lands Leasing Means for Achieving U.S. Climate Targets”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Oversight and Reform: Full Committee held a markup on H.R. 5477, the “Federal Agency Climate Planning, Resilience, and Enhanced Preparedness Act”; H.R. 4688, the “Federal Agency Customer Experience Act”; H.R. 5792, the “State and Local Digital Services Act”; H.R. 4778, the “District of Columbia Courts Vacancy Reduction Act”; H.R. 6066, the “Strengthening the Office of Personnel Management Act”; H.R. 700, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 303 East Mississippi Avenue in Elwood, Illinois, as the “Lawrence M. ‘Larry’ Walsh Sr. Post Office”; H.R. 3508, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 39 West Main Street, in Honeoye Falls, New York, as the “CW4 Christian J. Koch Memorial Post Office”; H.R. 4899, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 10 Broadway Street West, in Akeley, Minnesota, as the “Neal Kenneth Todd Post Office”; H.R. 5271, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2245 Rosa L Parks Boulevard in Nashville, Tennessee, as the “Thelma Harper Post Office Building”; H.R. 5577, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 3900 Crown Road Southwest in Atlanta, Georgia, as the “John R. Lewis Post Office Building”; H.R. 5650, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service at 16605 East Avenue of the Fountains in Fountain Hills, Arizona, as the “Dr. C.T. Wright Post Office Building”; and H.R. 5659, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1961 North C Street in Oxnard, California, as the “John R. Hatcher III Post Office Building”. H.R. 4688, H.R. 5792, H.R. 4778, H.R. 6066, and H.R. 5477 were ordered reported, as amended. H.R. 700, H.R.

3508, H.R. 4899, H.R. 5271, H.R. 5577, H.R. 5650, and H.R. 5659 were ordered reported, without amendment.

RESOLUTION RECOMMENDING THAT THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FIND JEFFREY BOSSERT CLARK IN CONTEMPT OF CONGRESS; FURTHER EXTENDING GOVERNMENT FUNDING ACT

Committee on Rules: Full Committee held a hearing on a Resolution Recommending That The House Of Representatives Find Jeffrey Bossert Clark In Contempt Of Congress For Refusal To Comply With A Subpoena Duly Issued By The Select Committee To Investigate The January 6th Attack On The United States Capitol; and H.R. 6119, the “Further Extending Government Funding Act”. The Committee granted, by record vote of 9–4, a closed rule providing for consideration of H.R. 6119, the “Further Extending Government Funding Act”. The rule provides one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the bill. The rule provides that the bill shall be considered as read. The rule waives all points of order against provisions in the bill. The rule provides one motion to recommit. The rule provides that proceedings may be postponed through December 10, 2021, on measures that were the object of motions to suspend the rules on the legislative days of November 30 or December 1, 2021, and on which the yeas and nays were ordered. The rule provides that House Resolution 188 is amended by striking “December 3, 2021” each place it appears and inserting “January 21, 2022”. The rule provides that on any legislative day of the second session of the One Hundred Seventeenth Congress before January 10, 2022, the Speaker may dispense with organizational and legislative business; and the Journal of the proceedings of the previous day shall be considered as approved if applicable. Testimony was heard from Chairman Thompson of Mississippi, Chairman DeLauro, and Representatives Cheney, Armstrong, and Granger.

ENSURING AMERICAN LEADERSHIP IN MICROELECTRONICS

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “Ensuring American Leadership in Microelectronics”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

THE EVOLVING CYBERSECURITY LANDSCAPE: FEDERAL PERSPECTIVES ON SECURING THE NATION’S INFRASTRUCTURE

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “The Evolving Cybersecurity Landscape: Federal Perspectives on Securing the Nation’s Infrastructure”. Testimony was heard from Cordell Schachter, Chief Information Officer, Department of Transportation; Larry Grossman, Chief Information Security Officer, Federal Aviation Administration; Victoria Newhouse, Deputy Assistant Administrator for Policy, Plans, and Engagement, Transportation Security Administration; Rear Admiral John W. Mauger, Assistant Commandant for Prevention Policy (CG–5P), U.S. Coast Guard; Kevin Dorsey, Assistant Inspector General for Information Technology Audits, Office of Inspector General, Department of Transportation; and Nick Marinos, Director, Information Technology and Cybersecurity, Government Accountability Office.

SUPPORTING U.S. WORKERS, BUSINESSES, AND THE ENVIRONMENT IN THE FACE OF UNFAIR CHINESE TRADE PRACTICES

Committee on Ways and Means: Subcommittee on Trade held a hearing entitled “Supporting U.S. Workers, Businesses, and the Environment in the Face of Unfair Chinese Trade Practices”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

NEW PUBLIC LAWS

(For last listing of Public Laws, see DAILY DIGEST, p. D1307)

S. 1031, to require the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct a study on disparities associated with race and ethnicity with respect to certain benefits administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs. Signed on November 30, 2021. (Public Law 117–66)

S. 894, to identify and refer members of the Armed Forces with a health care occupation who are separating from the Armed Forces for potential employment with the Department of Veterans Affairs. Signed on November 30, 2021. (Public Law 117–67)

S. 1095, to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for the disapproval by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs of courses of education offered by public institutions of higher learning that do not charge veterans the in-State tuition rate for purposes

of Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance Program. Signed on November 30, 2021. (Public Law 117–68)

S. 796, to codify maternity care coordination programs at the Department of Veterans Affairs. Signed on November 30, 2021. (Public Law 117–69)

**COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR FRIDAY,
DECEMBER 3, 2021**

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

No meetings/hearings scheduled.

House

No hearings are scheduled.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

3 p.m., Monday, December 6

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

9 a.m., Friday, December 3

Senate Chamber

Program for Monday: Senate will resume consideration of the nomination of Jessica Rosenworcel, of Connecticut, to be a Member of the Federal Communications Commission, and vote on the motion to invoke cloture thereon at 5:30 p.m.

House Chamber

Program for Friday: House will meet in Pro Forma session at 9 a.m.

Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

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